TRAVELS

IN

UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT,

IN COMPANY WITH SEVERAL

DIVISIONS OF THE FRENCH ARMY,

During the Campaigns of

GENERAL BONAPARTE

IN THAT COUNTRY;

AND PUBLISHED UNDER HIS IMMEDIATE PATRONAGE,

BY

VIVANT DENON.

EMBELLISHED WITH NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

TRANSLATED

BY ARTHUR AIKIN.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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Pl X.

Denon del.   Pub.d by Longman & Rees, & R.Phillips.   F. Harding Sc.

Entrance to the great Pyramid near Memphis.

DEDICATION.

TO BONAPARTE.

TO combine the lustre of your Name with the splendour of the Monuments of Egypt, is to associate the glorious annals of our own time with the history of the heroic age; and to reanimate the dust of Sesostris and Mendes, like you Conquerors, like you Benefactors.

Europe, by learning that I accompanied you in one of your most memorable

morable Expeditions, will receive my Work with eager intereſt. I have neglected nothing in my power to render it worthy of the Hero to whom it is inſcribed.

VIVANT DENON.

ADVERTISEMENT

BY THE TRANSLATOR.

IT is presumed that an account, by an eye-witness, of the romantic but unprovoked invasion of Egypt by General Bonaparte, will not be uninteresting to the British Public. The Author, a member of the Institute of Cairo, and an excellent draftsman, was selected to accompany the troops designed for the conquest of Upper Egypt, that under the protection of a military escort he might have an opportunity of examining those stupendous remains, and eternal documents of the ancient civilization of the country, to which its then unsettled state had denied a peaceable admission. Hence the work contains an agreeable mixture of incident and description: and if the journal of the desultory operations of a campaign against an enemy, whose rapid motions, whose invincible courage, whose persevering bravery always rendered him a formidable opponent, interrupts unseasonably now and then an account of the venerable mo-

numents

numents of Thebes or Tentyra; yet this very interruption becomes a ſtimulus to curioſity, and the attention of the reader, though kept up active to the laſt, will not be withdrawn ungratified. Citizen Denon, not being a ſoldier by profeſſion, and therefore not hardened to the atrocities of war, has, notwithſtanding his natural partiality towards his countrymen, and his perſonal regard for many of the chiefs in the expedition, given a fairer account of the treatment which the natives underwent from their invaders, than we are likely to receive from any other quarter: and, indeed, of the campaigns in Upper Egypt, he is as yet the only hiſtorian: in this view, therefore, his narrative is of peculiar value. We ſee what a dreadful licence of luſt, rapine, and ſlaughter, the French troops were allowed to indulge in, and how whole villages were exterminated upon the bare ſuſpicion of meditating reſiſtance to the raviſhers of their women, the deſolators of their fields, the incendiaries of their houſes. We ſee that ſo far from conciliating the eſteem of the Egyptians, the French dominion was confined to the range of their cannon, that their ſtragglers were cut off like proſcribed beaſts of prey; and, preſſed by the Arabs on one ſide, and Murad-Bey on the other,

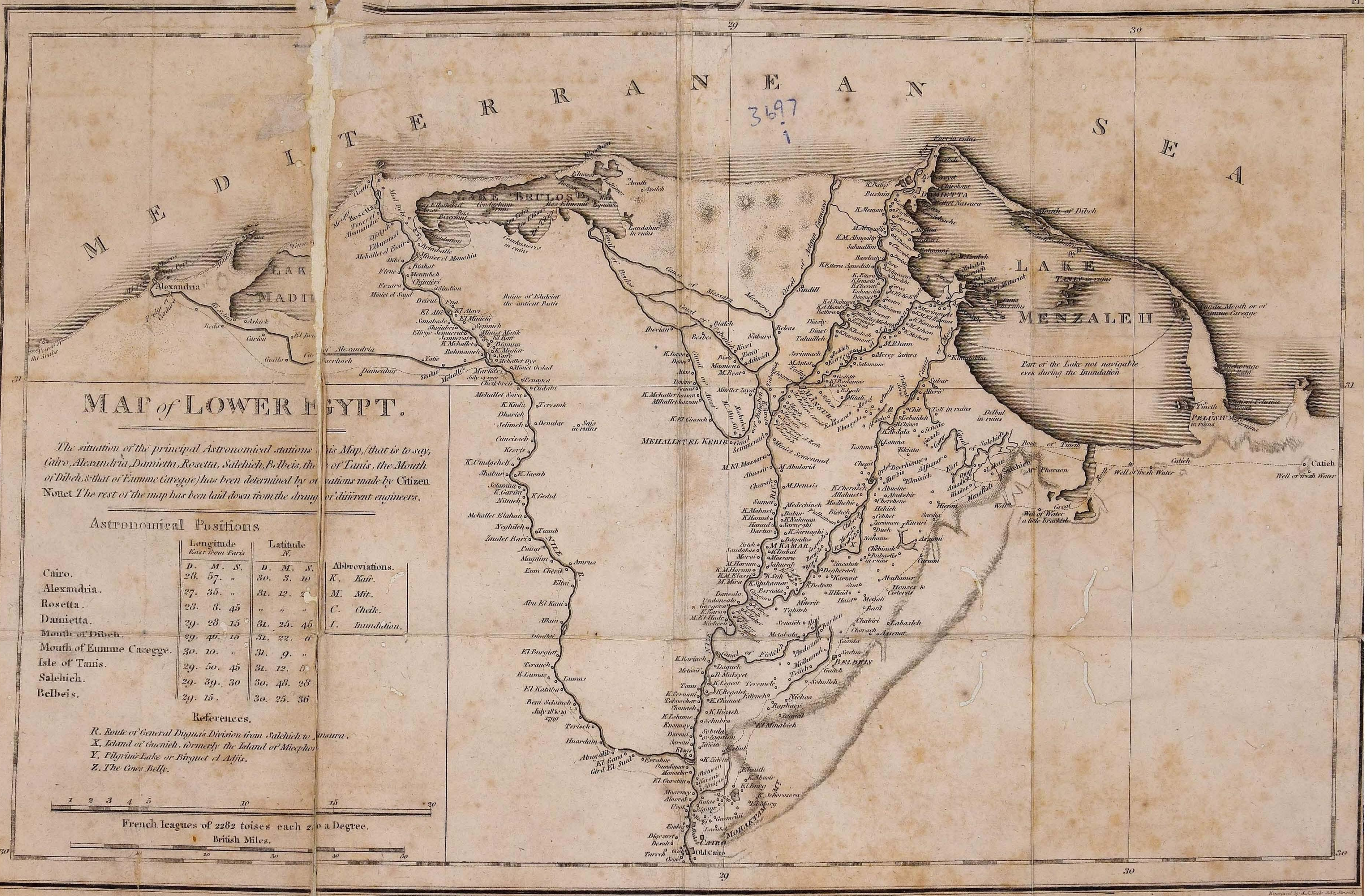
other, they were kept in a conſtant ſtate of watchfulneſs and alarm. The military tranſactions, however, are neither the moſt pleaſing, nor the prominent feature of the work: the Author was by neceſſity a ſoldier, but by profeſſion an artiſt, and a man of letters; hence the remains of the architecture, the ſculpture, and the painting of the ancient Egyptians, were the principal objects of his attention; and theſe he has deſcribed both by words and the pencil, ſo as to render them highly intereſting to all thoſe who feel any curioſity about a nation, from whom ancient Greece derived her ſublimeſt philoſophy, and which is inſeparably connected with the earlier ages of the Jewiſh hiſtory.

With regard to the preſent Engliſh edition, a few words remain to be ſaid. The narrative in the original is one continued journal, without diviſion of chapters, from the embarkation of the author at Toulon to his landing again in France at Frejus; to this are added ſeveral notes, more particularly illuſtrative of the plates, and mentioning little traits of manners and cuſtoms, which the Author, either from inadvertence, or want of opportunity, neglected to introduce into the text. The Tranſlator, however, has taken the liberty of breaking the journal into

ſeparate chapters, without, however, in the leaſt degree altering the order of its arrangement; and in a few inſtances, of incorporating with the text ſuch parts of the notes as appear to have been thrown to the end of the original work, merely in conſequence of having been forgotten.

Notwithſtanding the liberal allowance of plates, it has been found expedient, for fear of too much enhancing the price of this edition, (the French original of which ſells in London for twenty-one guineas) to leave out a few which are contained in the original. The picturesque views, therefore, of the battles, and of ſome other tranſactions, which, from their very nature muſt be mere fancy pieces, are omitted: a ſimilar liberty has alſo occaſionally been taken, in ſelecting the beſt of two or three views of the ſame place from different poſitions. In this arrangement the Proprietors have been enabled to retain nearly the whole of thoſe engravings which repreſent the architectural and hieroglyphical remains of Upper Egypt, and which comprize the valuable part of the decorations of this ſplendid work.

A. A.



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PREFACE.

WHEN an author has decided on writing a preface, his principal aim is to give an idea of the nature of his work. This taſk, which becomes in a manner an obligation. I ſhall fulfil by inſerting here the diſcourſe it was my intention to read to the Inſtitute of Cairo, on my return from upper Egypt.

"You have acquainted me, citizens, that the Inſtitute expected from me an account of my travels in upper Egypt, for which purpoſe I was, in the courſe of different ſittings, to read extracts from the journal intended to accompany the

drawings I have brought from thence. My desire to meet the wishes of the Institute will stimulate me to digest, without loss of time, a multitude of notes which I have made, without any other pretension than that of forgetting no part of what offered itself daily to my observation. I was engaged in travelling through a country which was known to Europe by name only: it therefore became important to describe every thing; and I was fully aware, that at my return I should be interrogated on all sides, relative to what might, according to his habitual studies or his character, the most powerfully excite the curiosity of each of my enquirers. I have made drawings of objects of every description; and if

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I am here fearful of fatiguing thoſe to whom I diſplay my numerous productions, ſeeing that they merely re-trace what they have before their eyes, I ſhall, perhaps, on my reaching France, have to reproach myſelf for not having multiplied them ſtill more, or, to ſpeak more correctly, ſhall lament that the circumſtances in which I was placed did not allow me either the time or the conveniences to do ſo. If my zeal has called forth all the means of which I am poſſeſſed, theſe means have been powerfully ſeconded by the commander in chief, whoſe grand conceptions ſuffer none of the details to eſcape him. Being aware that the aim of my travels was to viſit the monuments of upper Egypt, he

ſent me with the diviſion which was to achieve the conqueſt of that territory. In General Deſaix I found an inquiſitive philoſopher, a friend of the arts, from whom I received all the attentions which the circumſtances would allow. From General Beliard I experienced friendſhip, and unwearied aſſiduities; from the officers politeneſs, and the utmoſt civility from all the ſoldiers of the twenty-firſt half-brigade. In ſhort, I made ſo truly a part of the battalion it formed, and within which I had in a manner taken up my abode, that I was frequently in the heat of action without recollecting myſelf, and without reflecting that war was foreign to my avocations.

"As our troops were engaged in the purſuit of an enemy conſtantly mounted, the movements of the diviſion were invariably both unforeſeen and multiplied. I was therefore ſometimes obliged to paſs rapidly over the moſt intereſting monuments; and at other times to ſtop where there was nothing to obſerve. If, however, I have felt the fatigue of unproductive marches, I have alſo experienced that it is often advantageous to take a ſummary view of important objects previouſly to an entry into their details; that, if at firſt ſight they dazzle by their number, they afterwards become claſſed in the mind by reflection; and that, if it be neceſſary ſtudiouſly to preſerve the firſt impreſſions, it is only dur-

ing the abſence of the object which has given riſe to them, that theſe impreſſions can be carefully examined and analyzed. It has alſo ſtruck me, that an artiſt who undertakes to travel, ſhould, before he ſets out, diveſt himſelf of all profeſſional prejudices; and that he ought not to conſider what may, or what may not make a fine drawing, but *the general* intereſt which the aſpect of the ſpot he purpoſes to draw may inſpire. I have already, citizens, been recompenſed for having diveſted myſelf of theſe prejudices, by the flattering curioſity you have diſplayed, and by the avidity with which you have examined the immenſe number of drawings I have brought with me;—drawings which

I made

I made most frequently on my knee, or standing, or even on horseback. I have never been able to finish any one of them as I could have wished, for this reason, that during the space of a whole year I could never find a table sufficiently straight and even, to be able to lay a ruler on it.

"It has therefore been with a view to reply to your questions, that I have made this multitude of drawings, frequently too small, because our marches were too precipitate to enable me to seize the details of the objects, the aspect and *ensemble* at least of which I was determined to bring away with me. It is in this way that I have taken in the mass the pyramids of Ssakharah, the site of which I crossed

on a gallop, in my way to fix myself for a month in the mud houses of Bnisuef. This interval of time was spent in comparing the characters, and in drawing the persons and dresses of the different nations which now inhabit Egypt, together with their buildings, and the positions of their villages.

"I saw at length the portico of Hermopolis, the huge masses of the ruins of which gave me the earliest idea of the splendour of the colossal architecture of the Egyptians. On each of the blocks of which this edifice was composed, I fancied I saw engraved the words *posterity*, *eternity*.

"Shortly after, Denderah (Tentyris) taught me that it was not in the

the doric, ionic, and corinthian orders alone, that the beauties of architecture were to be ſought: whereever a harmony of parts exiſts, there beauty is, to be found. I had approached theſe edifices in the morning: in the evening I was ſnatched away from them, more agitated than ſatisfied. I had ſeen a hundred things, while a thouſand others had eſcaped me; and had, for the firſt time, found acceſs to the archives of the arts and ſciences. I had the preſentiment that I ſhould meet with nothing finer in Egypt; and, after having made twenty journies to Denderah, I am confirmed in this opinion. The ſciences of arts, united by good taſte, have decorated the temple of Iſis: there aſtronomy,

morals,

morals, and metaphyſics, aſſume ſhape and figure, and theſe figures and ſhapes decorate the ceilings, frizes, and baſes, with at leaſt as much taſte and grace as our ſlight and inſignificant paintings *in freſco* ornament the modern cabinets.

"We continued to advance. I muſt confeſs that I trembled a thouſand times, leſt Mourad-bey, wearied with ſhunning us, ſhould either ſurrender, or try the chance of a battle. I was of opinion, that the one which was fought near Samanhut would wind up this great drama: in the midſt, however, of the combat, it ſtruck Mourad-bey that the deſert would be more fatal to us than his arms. Deſaix was thus again deprived of an oppor-

tunity

tunity of deſtroying him; while, for my part, I cheriſhed the hope of purſuing him beyond the tropic.

"We marched towards Thebes, the name alone of which fills the imagination with vaſt recollections. As if this city could eſcape me, I made a drawing of it the moment it came in view. We paſſed through it ſo rapidly, that ſcarcely was a monument diſcovered, when it was neceſſary to abandon it.

"There a coloſſal ſtatue preſented itſelf which could be meaſured by the eye alone, governed by the ſenſation of ſurpriſe which the view of it occaſioned. To the right were ſeen mountains excavated and ſculptured; to the left, temples which, viewed at a diſtance, appeared like

ſo many rocks. Next came palaces, and other temples, which I was obliged to quit precipitately. I returned, to ſeek mechanically the hundred gates of which Homer poetically ſpeaks, to expreſs by a ſingle word this ſplendid city, the weight of the porticoes of which oppreſſed the earth, while the breadth of Egypt ſcarcely ſufficed for its compaſs and extent. Seven ſubſequent journies thither have not ſatisfied the curioſity with which this firſt viſit inſpired me. It was not until the fourth that I was enabled to croſs to the oppoſite ſide of the river.

"Farther on, I ſhould have regarded Hermontis as ſuperb, if that city had not been placed ſo near to the

the gates of Thebes. The temple of Eſneh, the ancient Latopolis, appeared to me to be the perfection of art among the Egyptians, and one of the fineſt productions of antiquity. That of Edfù, or Apollinopolis Magna, is one of the largeſt, beſt preſerved, and moſt advantageouſly ſituated of the monuments of Egypt. In its preſent ſtate it ſtill appears like a fortreſs which commands the ſurrounding country.

" It was there that the deſtination of my travels was decided on: we ſet out on our march for Syené (Aſſuan) under the moſt poſitive inſtructions. In this paſſage through the deſert, I felt for the firſt time in my life the weight of years, on which I had not reckoned when I engaged

engaged in the expedition. On this occaſion I derived greater ſupport from my ſpirit than from my ſtrength. At Syené I quitted the army, to remain with the half-brigade which was to keep Mourad-bey in check in the deſert. Proud at finding my country in poſſeſſion of the very boundaries which had once belonged to the Roman empire, I inhabited with exultation the quarters which three Roman cohorts had anciently occupied for the defence of theſe limits. During the twenty-two days which I ſpent on this celebrated ſpot, I took poſſeſſion of whatever was to be found in its vicinity. I extended my conqueſts as far as Nubia, on the other ſide of Philoë, that delightful iſland, where

it

it was neceffary to fnatch by force from the inhabitants the curiofities with which it abounded; and the temples of which were not opened to me until after five days of fiege and fix journies I had made thither. Feeling all the importance of making you acquainted with the fpot I inhabited, and with all the interefting objects it contained, I have made drawings even of the rocks, of the quarries of granite from whence have been drawn thofe coloffal ftatues, thofe obelifks ftill more than coloffal, and thofe blocks covered with hieroglyphics fo celebrated in hiftory. With the form of them I could have wifhed to bring back with me the fpecimens which would have interefted you the moft powerfully.

fully. Not being able to make a map of the country, I have drawn a bird's-eye view of the entrance of the Nile into Egypt, together with views of that river running over beds of granite, which ſeem to have marked the boundaries between Ethiopia and a country more fertile and temperate. Quitting for ever the former rude territory, I approached the verdant *Elephantis*, the garden of the tropic. I ſought and meaſured all the monuments it contains, and quitted with regret that tranquil abode, where the pleaſing occupations in which I had been engaged had re-eſtabliſhed my health, and given me a new vigour.

"On the right bank of the Nile I viſited Ombos, the city of the crocodile,

codile, and that of Juno Lucina, Coptos, where I was obliged to protect, from the fanaticifm of the Mekkyns, the riches I brought away with me.

" After making fome ftay at Kénéh, I accompanied the party which had to crofs the defert, and to proceed to Kofséir, to check the new emigrations from Arabia. I faw what may be denominated the cupola of the chain of mountains of Mokatham, and the fteril banks of the Red Sea. I there learned to revere that patient animal, which nature feems to have placed in thofe regions to atone for the error fhe had committed in creating a defert. I now returned to Kénéh, from whence I fet out at different inter-

vals to viſit Edfù, Eſneh, Hermontis, Thebes, and Denderah, neglecting no opportunity to repair to Edfù and to Thebes, whenever a detachment was ordered to either of theſe places; and, indeed, accompanying the detachments wherever they were ſent. If a fondneſs for antiquities has frequently made me a ſoldier, on the other hand, the kindneſs of the ſoldiers, in aiding me in my reſearches, has often made antiquaries of them. In theſe latter journies I viſited the tombs of the kings, to the end that in theſe ſecret depoſitories I might form an idea of the art of painting among the Egyptians, of their utenſils, arms, furniture, muſical inſtruments, ceremonies, and triumphs. It was alſo on theſe occaſions

casions that I assured myself, that the hieroglyphics sculptured on the walls were not the only books of that learned nation. After having discovered on the bass-reliefs the representations of persons in the act of writing, I made the additional discovery of that roll of papyrus, of that unique manuscript which has already engaged your attention. This fragile rival of the pyramids, this invaluable pledge of a preservatory climate, this monument which time has spared, is the most ancient of all books, and boasts the duration of forty centuries.

"I sought, in the course of these latter excursions, to complete by approximations the voluminous collection of hieroglyphical paintings I

have formed. In thinking of you, citizens, and of all the literati of Europe, I felt the refolution to copy, with a fcrupulous nicety, the minute details of thefe dry and unmeaning paintings, which could not otherwife intereft me than by the aid of your intelligence.

"Now that I am returned, laden with my productions, the weight of which has been daily augmented, I have forgotten the labour which they coft me, from the perfuafion that, being completed under your infpection, and with the help of your counfel, they may hereafter become ufeful to my country, and be worthy to be prefented to you."

TRAVELS

IN

UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT.

BY

VIVANT DENON.

TRAVELS

IN

UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT.

CHAPTER I.

The Author embarks at Toulon on board La Junon—Order of ſailing of the French Fleet and Convoy — Paſs Corſica and Elba — Amuſements of the Crew at Sea—View of Sicily from Sea—Join General Deſaix's Convoy at Gozo—Malta.

I HAD from my infancy wiſhed to make a voyage to Egypt; but time, which ſoftens every impreſſion, had weakened this deſire. When the expedition, which was to render us maſters of that territory, was

 on

on foot, the poſſibility of executing my old project awakened the wiſh to undertake it. In a word, the hero who commanded the expedition decided on my departure: he promiſed to take me with him; and I had no anxiety about my return. As ſoon as I had made the neceſſary proviſion for thoſe whoſe exiſtence depended on my own, I became tranquil as to what was paſſed, and devoted myſelf wholly to the future. Being fully perſuaded that he who is in the conſtant purſuit of any object acquires from thence the ability to attain his aim, I no longer reflected on the obſtacles which were in my way, or at leaſt I felt within myſelf all that was neceſſary to ſurmount them. My heart palpitated, without my being able to explain whether this emotion aroſe from joy or from ſorrow. Shunning all ſocial intercourſe, I wandered about, and became

agitated, without having any object in view, and without forefeeing or providing any part of what would become fo ufeful to me in a country where few refources were to be found. The brave and unfortunate Du Falga permitted my nephew to accompany me, an indulgence for which I felt every gratitude. In quitting all that was dear to me, to have the fociety of an amiable relative was the means of preventing the chain of my affections from being broken: it kept my mind in the exercife of its fenfibility; and marked the delicacy of that good and enlightened man.

I fhall fay but little of my journey from Paris to the port where we were to embark. We arrived at Lyons without having quitted our carriage; and we there embarked on the Rhone to proceed to Avignon. On viewing the fine banks of the Saone, and the

picturesque scenes of the Rhone, it struck me, that, without enjoying what he possesses at home, man seeks in distant climes food for his insatiable curiosity. I had seen the Neva, I had viewed the Tiber, and I was now in search of the Nile: I had, however, when in Italy, seen no antiquities superior to those of Nismes, Orange, Beauvaise, St. Remy, and Aix. I mention the latter place, because we staid an hour there, which gave me an opportunity to bathe in the apartment, and in the very bath in which, since the time of the Proconsul Sextus, nothing except the cock had been changed.

We spent a day at Marseilles, from whence we set out on the 13th of May, 1798, for Toulon. On the following day I embarked on board the frigate La Junon, which, in company with two other frigates, was to reconnoitre ahead of the fleet.

The wind was foul, and we quitted the port with ſome difficulty. We fell aboard two other veſſels, an unlucky omen, which would have induced a Roman to return into port. He would, however, have been to blame, ſeeing that chance, which in almoſt all caſes helps us more effectually than we can help ourſelves, by not allowing me to do what I wiſhed, and by conducting me implicitly to what I was to do, placed me from that moment at the advance-poſt, which I was not to quit during the expedition.

On the 15th, our manœuvres were confined to ſtanding off and on the port.

Towards the evening of the 16th, we diſcovered four ſail, which manœuvred in order of battle to leeward of us. The hammocks were ordered on deck; a terrible command, of which no idea can be formed by thoſe who have not been at ſea. Silence,

terror, the preparatives for ſlaughter, and thoſe ſtill more dreadful to meet, its conſequences, all diſplay themſelves in the ſame point of view. The manœuvres and the guns are the only objects of ſolicitude: the crew form but a ſecondary conſideration.

Night came, but did not reſtore our tranquillity: we paſſed it at our poſts. At day-break we found that we had taken every advantage of the wind. The veſſels in ſight of us were ſo diſtant, that we could not judge whether they were ſhips of the line or frigates. They were four to our three; and our lower rigging was embarraſſed by trains of artillery. In the afternoon the commodore ordered us to form a line of battle, hoiſting his colours, and firing a gun. The ſhips in view of us now hoiſted Spaniſh colours. At night we were allowed to ſleep; but at three in the morning were awakened by the order to prepare for action.

I was not ſorry that the expedition ſhould begin by ſomething brilliant: I was not, however, without my apprehenſions of exchanging the Nile for the Thames. We were within gun-ſhot of the ſtrange ſhips, when our commodore ſent his boat on board them. After an hour's abſence, the boat returned with the intelligence that we had cauſed an uneaſineſs equal to our own to four Spaniſh frigates, which certainly did not come to ſeek a quarrel with us.

On the 19th, at day-break, the wind ſhifted to the north-weſt. The ſhips of the line and the convoy quitted the port, and by noon the ſea was covered with veſſels. How grand a ſpectacle! Never can any national diſplay give a more ſublime idea of the ſplendour of France, of her ſtrength, and of her means. Is it poſſible to reflect without admiration on the facility and promptitude

promptitude with which this great and memorable expedition was got ready? Thousands of persons belonging to all the classes of society repaired to the ports, almost the whole of them ignorant of what was to be their destination. They deserted wives, children, friends and fortune, to follow Bonaparte, and for this reason only, that Bonaparte was to be their guide.

On the 20th, the Orient at length quitted the port, and we put to sea with a fair wind, each vessel taking her station in order of sailing. Our squadron of frigates was ahead. Next came the commander in chief, with his advice-boats, and the line of battle ships. The convoy kept within shore, between the islands of Hieres and the main land. In the evening the breeze freshened: the Franklin carried away her mizen-top-sail. Two frigates belonging to our division

ſion were diſpatched to give notice to the Genoa convoy to join us; and on the 22d in the morning, we were off St. Fiorenzo, in the iſland of Corſica.

We directed our courſe towards Cape Corſo, ſteering to the eaſt, and leaving to the left Genoa, and the ſhore of Liguria. Our line of battle ſhips extended for a league; and the half circle formed by the convoy was at leaſt ſix leagues in extent. I counted an hundred and ſixty veſſels, without being able to reckon the whole.

On the 23d in the morning, the frigates had weathered Cape Corſo. The line of battle ſhips were off the Cape, and the iſland of Capraya. The convoy followed in good order; but being to leeward of the Cape, and not being able to double it in the courſe of the day, we were obliged to lie to at the diſtance of a league from the land.

On

On the morning of the 24th, the frigates were off the eastern coast of Corsica, opposite Bastia, the road and port of which I could distinguish very clearly. The city appeared to me to be well built, and the country about it less rude in its aspect than the rest of the island. I made a drawing of this spot (Fig. 1. Plate I.) The island of Elba is a rock of ferruginous earth, the crystallized portions of which present all the colours of the prism. This rock is divided into three sovereignties. The seignory and mines belong to the prince of Piombino; Porto Ferraio, to the left, belongs to the grand duke of Tuscany; and, to the right, Porto Longone is the property of the king of Naples.*

The south-west part of the island of Capraya, which was within our view, is no

* By the last treaty of peace with Naples, the possession of the island is secured to France.

other

other than a ſteep and inacceſſible rock. This iſland belongs to the Genoeſe, who have, at the eaſtern part, a fortreſs and an anchorage ground.

At five in the afternoon the iſland of Pianoſe was to the eaſt of us.. Its flat ſurface is a league in extent; and as it is elevated a few feet only above the ſurface of the ſea, it is extremely dangerous in the night to pilots who are unacquainted with the coaſt. It is ſituated between the iſland of Elba and Monte Chriſto, an uncultivated rock, abandoned to wild goats. To the weſt of the latter iſland the wind died away, and our ſluggiſh convoy ceaſed to make any progreſs.

When a calm enſues, ſloth develops all the paſſions of the crew of a veſſel, giving birth to each ſuperfluous want, and to the diſputes which ariſe to procure it. The ſeamen wanted double allowance, and vented

their complaints. The moſt greedy among them ſold their effects, or diſpoſed of them by way of lottery; while others, with a ſtrong propenſity to gamble, played, and loſt more in a quarter of an hour than they could pay in their life-time. Thoſe who had loſt their money ſtaked their watches, ſix or eight of which I have ſeen depending on the chance of a die. When night put a ſtop to theſe turbulent enjoyments, a bad fiddle, or a worſe ſinger, charmed a numerous auditory on the deck; while, at a little diſtance from theſe, an energetic ſtory-teller drew the attention of a group of a ſeamen, who never failed to manifeſt their reſentment againſt any one who ſhould attempt to interrupt the recital of the prodigies of valour and marvellous adventures of *Tranche-Montagne*.* The hero of theſe tales being invariably a

* A ſtory ſimilar to that of our Jack the giant-killer.

warrior,

warrior, each of the adventures was as probable as it was intereſting to the auditors. In the mean time our proviſions diminiſhed daily, while we remained in a manner ſtationary.

On the 25th, we were ſtill off Monte Chriſto, and the eaſtern coaſt of Corſica. This part of the iſland appeared to me to be more agreeable, and better cultivated than the others.

On the 26th, at day-break, we were off the ſtrait of Bonifacio; and, our convoy being collected, ſhould have made a conſiderable progreſs, had we not been obliged to lie to, and to wait for the diviſions of Ajaccio and Civita Vecchia. The Diane and an advice-boat had been diſpatched to them; while the frigates had received orders to cruiſe ahead, and to hail and reconnoitre veſſels.

On the morning of the 27th, we had entirely loſt ſight of land. The following day was ſpent in a ſtate of perfect ſtagnation. In a ſea cruiſe a calm reſembles the ſleep which opium procures in a raging fever: the evil is ſuſpended, but the malady is not ſubdued.

On the 29th, we ſtood on, having been joined by the Ajaccio convoy: that of Civita Vecchia had not made ſo much ſpeed. The iſland of Corſica was no longer in view; and we were abreaſt of the iſland of Talara.

The iſland of Sardinia is not ſo elevated as Corſica. Theſe two iſlands, one ſituated at the extremity of the other, appear like a prolongation of the chain of the Alps, which terminates at the gulf of Genoa, as do alſo the chains of the Apennines and Voſges mountains, together with all thoſe ſecondary chains, which are no other than

ſo many branches diverging from the ſame point. At noon the ſignal was made for a written order. We were ſo much in need of events, that this circumſtance diffuſed gladneſs in every breaſt. The purport of the order was, that we were to proceed to Cagliari, and, on our arrival off that port, were to return to Porto Vecchio, if we had been anticipated by an enemy of ſuperior force.

On the 30th and 31ſt, we were prevented from taking advantage of the wind, the ſhips of the line and convoy doing nothing but ſtanding off and on. In the evening we were joined by the Badine, which brought the intelligence that we might be almoſt certain of reaching Cagliari point without moleſtation. Nothing new occurred until the 4th of June. Our proviſions were nearly expended, and our water become ſo fetid as

to be ſcarcely drinkable. The uſeful animals had diſappeared, while thoſe that fed on us were multiplied an hundred fold.

On the following day, the 5th, we received orders to form the line afreſh, which led us to think that we were to proſecute our expedition without delay, and for that purpoſe to croſs over to the oppoſite ſhore. The Diane led. We repeated her ſignals to the Alceſte, which tranſmitted them to the Spartiate, from whence, by the medium of the Aquilon, they were conveyed to the ſhip of the commander in chief. By eight o'clock we were in the order I have juſt deſcribed. In caſe the Diane ſhould chace an enemy's veſſel, the other ſhips compoſing the flying ſquadron were to crowd ſail to come up with her and her chace. We ſaw ſeveral ſmall dolphins play before the head of the ſhip; but, to our great mortification, they diſap-

peare

peared while we were preparing to harpoon them. I had a clofe view of them. Their progrefs refembles the pitching of a veffel. They leap out of the water, and dart forward twenty feet. They are elegantly fhaped, and their rapid movements rather refemble a fportive gaiety, than announce the voracity of an animal in queft of its prey. In the evening the wind frefhened, and, fhifting round from the eaft to the weft, collected the convoy in fuch a way, that I fancied I faw Venice floating on the waves. At fun-fet we defcried Martimo, and received orders to rally the convoy, in the midft of which we were to pafs the night, as in a floating city.

On the 6th, we kept in the fame order of failing. We were ftill in fight of Martimo, a rock which refembles a mole, at the weftern point of Sicily. It is one of the rallying points of the Mediterranean, where we

 might

might have fallen in with the English. The wind freshened, and we went at the rate of two leagues an hour. Under such circumstances as these, the inconveniences of a sea-life are forgotten, and nothing felt but the advantage of having such an agent as the sea for the transport and conveyance of forty thousand men, as in our case, without halt or relay. At one o'clock, being off Martimo, and at one league's distance from thence, we descried Favagnana, another rock, situated in front of Trapano, and mount Erix, which overlooks that city, celebrated for a temple of Venus, and for the way in which sacrifices were there made to that goddess. I had formerly visited mount Erix, where I had sought the temple, and the city renowned for the beauty of its female inhabitants: in spite, however, of my youth, and of a fervid imagination, I could discover nothing

thing but a paltry village, and ſome foundations of a temple.

The coaſt of Sicily, a country agreeable, productive, and well cultivated, made us amends for the rude aſpect of the coaſts of Corſica, and the adjacent rocks. To me it had another charm, that of remembrance. I had figured to myſelf Sicily as an ancient property. I could perceive, through the vapours of the atmoſphere, Marſala, formerly Lilibæum, from whence the Greeks and Romans deſcried the fleets which came out from Carthage to attack them. At a more remote diſtance, I had a glimpſe of the verdant and flouriſhing plains of Mazzarra, and of the city of Motala, celebrated for the combat between the Carthaginians and Syracuſans. My imagination, following the coaſt, figured to itſelf the aſpect of Selinuns, its temples and its upright columns ſtill re-

ſembling

ſembling towers. At a ſtill greater diſtance, I fancied I could perceive the hoſpitable Agrigentum. We made a progreſs of three leagues an hour; and the picture which my imagination had drawn was about to be realized, when a ſignal was made to call in the frigates.

The night was fine; we ſpent it in the midſt of the fleet. I had requeſted to be waked if the land ſhould be in ſight at day-break. At half after three I was on deck; and as ſoon as the day dawned, I perceived that the fleet and convoy had put out to ſea, and were ſteering towards Malta. Sicily ſoon diſappeared. To the ſouth weſt I perceived, or rather I fancied I could diſtinguiſh, the iſland of Pantaleria, in the midſt of the thick clouds in which it is conſtantly enveloped. Thither it was that the Romans exiled the illuſtrious characters they proſcribed;

ſcribed; and there the Neapolitan ſtate-priſoners are at this time confined.

On the 7th we had a clear ſky; but, the wind having died away, we made but little progreſs. Having been obliged to give chace to a ſtrange ſail, we were ſeparated from the fleet, which we could not join afterwards. We ſaw a fiſh about eighty feet in length.

The night was calm; and on the 8th, at day-break, we were preciſely in the ſituation in which we had been on the preceding evening at ſun-ſet. To the north eaſt we deſcried Etna towering above the horizon. I could ſee its figure very diſtinctly. The ſmoke iſſued from the eaſtern ſide, and denoted an eruption from an accidental aperture. Notwithſtanding it was fifty leagues diſtant from us, it appeared larger than the mountains to the ſouth, which were diſtant only twelve leagues. When the ſun had attained

tained a certain degree of elevation, it disappeared, together with the shadow by which its circumference was marked.

At six in the evening we descried Gozo, which, at the distance of seven leagues, I very clearly distinguished, reddening at the horizon. We lay to all night to wait for the convoy. On the following morning, at day-break, I had another view of Etna, the smoke of which spread itself in the air to a distance of more than twenty leagues, like a long sheet of vapours. We were then fifty-three leagues distant from the island.

The men of war all passed under the stern of the commander in chief. We had not as yet approached the Orient since our departure; and this evolution was so awful and majestic, that, notwithstanding the pleasure we had at seeing each other again, we did not add a single phrase to the *good day* which we pronounced with a low voice in passing.

We ſteered towards the north ſide of Gozo. It is an elevated rock in form of a peak, and without anchorage. We afterwards coaſted along the weſtern part, within half gun-ſhot. On that ſide, which at firſt ſight appears as barren as the other, cotton is however cultivated. All the little vallies reſemble ſo many gardens. In the middle of the iſland there is a large village, and on the moſt elevated part a fortreſs with caſemates, very well built.

At eight in the morning a ſignal was made for ſeveral ſtrange ſails, thirty of which could be diſtinguiſhed. Was this the enemy's fleet? On reconnoitering, it was found to be the Civita Vecchia convoy, having on board General Deſaix's diviſion. This convoy had kept within ſhore along the Italian coaſt, had paſſed through the ſtrait of Meſſina, and was off Malta ſome days before us.

As an impetuous torrent, which has increaſed its bulk in paſſing over mountains covered with ſnow, threatens in its courſe, accelerated by its maſs, to ſweep away foreſts and cities; ſo our fleet, now become immenſe, unqueſtionably ſpread terror and diſmay wherever it was deſcried. Corſica, warned of our approach, felt no other emotion than that which is inſpired by ſo grand a ſpectacle: Sicily was appalled; and Malta in a ſtate of ſtupid conſternation. We will not, however, anticipate events.

CHAP.

CHAPTER II.

Arrival of the Fleet at Malta—Attack on the Town and Capitulation—The Fleet purſue their Voyage—Accident at Sea—Diſcover the Britiſh Fleet near Candia—Make the Coaſt of Egypt—Barren Appearance of the Land—Tower of the Arabs—View of Alexandria from Sea—The Army diſembark and carry Fort Marabou.

AT five in the afternoon we were off Cumino and Cuminotto, two iſlots which lie between Gozo and Malta, and which, together with theſe iſlands, conſtitute the whole of the ſovereignty of the Grand Maſter. There are ſeveral ſmall fortreſſes

treſſes to protect theſe iſlots from the Barbary pirates, and to prevent them from eſtabliſhing themſelves there when the Malteſe gallies are no longer at ſea. One of our barks approached, but a landing was refuſed: ſhe ſent her ſmall boat to ſound the anchoring grounds. At ſix o'clock we deſcried Malta, the aſpect of which delighted me as much as when I firſt ſaw it. Two paltry barks came out to offer us tobacco. The evening cloſed, and not a light was to be diſcovered in the city. Our frigate was off the entrance of the port, within leſs than a gun ſhot of fort St. Elmo. Orders were given to prepare for landing the troops. At nine o'clock a ſignal was made for the ſhips to take their ſtations: there was little or no wind: the ſhips of the line made night ſignals relative to theſe movements, and to thoſe of the convoy. Rockets were let off,

and

and guns fired, in conſequence of which all the lights were extinguiſhed in the port. Our captain went on board the flag-ſhip, but on his return concealed from us the orders he had received.

On the 10th, at four in the morning, having been carried away by the ſtrength of the currents, we were to leeward of the iſland, the eaſtern part of which was in ſight: it was ſtill calm. I made (No. 1. Plate III.) a drawing of the whole of the iſland of Gozo, and of the two iſlots, to give an idea of the general form of this group, and of its ſurface on the horizontal line of the ſea.

A gentle breeze ſprung up, and advantage was taken of it to form a ſemi-circular line, one of the extremities of which terminated at St. Catharine's point, and the other a league to the left of the city, blocking the

 port.

port. The centre was ſtationed off forts St. Elmo and St. Angelo; and the convoy at anchor between Cumino and Gozo. Immediately after, a ſhot was fired from fort St. Catharine, levelled at the barks which approached the ſhore, and at the troops for landing under the command of General Deſaix. Inſtantly another ſhot was fired from the fortreſs which commands the city, and on this fortreſs the ſtandard of the Religion was diſplayed, at the ſame time that, at the other extremity of the line of our veſſels, our boats were employed in landing troops and field-pieces. Scarcely were they formed on the beach, when they proceeded to the attack of two poſts, the garriſons of which retreated after a momentary reſiſtance. The batteries of all the forts now commenced a fire on the ſhips and debarkations. This fire they kept up till the evening, with an impru-

dent

dent precipitation, which betrayed their fears and confuſion. At ten o'clock we ſaw our troops aſcend the neareſt height, and march to the rear of Valetta, to oppoſe a *ſortie* made by the beſieged, who were driven within the walls, and under the batteries. The firing was kept up until night. This attempt on the part of the knights, aided by the peaſants, was fatal to them. During their abſence there had been tumults in the city, where the populace maſſacred ſeveral of them on their return.

The wind dying away, we took advantage of the little that remained to join the ſhips of the line, from an apprehenſion of being becalmed, and of being thus expoſed to the fire of two Malteſe gallies which had anchored off the entrance of the port. (See No. 2. Plate I.) I was conſtantly on deck, and, with a ſpying glaſs in hand, could have

 kept

kept a journal of all that paſſed in the city, and have noted in a manner the degree of activity of the paſſions by which the movements were guided. The firſt day all was in martial array, the knights in full uniform, and a conſtant communication kept up between the city and the forts, into which proviſions and ammunition of every kind were thrown. Every thing, in ſhort, indicated hoſtility. On the ſecond day the movements were confined to an agitated ſtate. A part only of the knights were in uniform: they diſputed with each other, but had ceaſed to act.

On the 11th, at day-break, the ſtate of things was pretty much the ſame as on the preceding evening. A ſlow and inſignificant fire was kept up by the beſieged. Bonaparte had returned on board; and General Regnier, who had made himſelf maſter of

Gozo,

Gozo, had ſent off ſeveral priſoners, Frenchmen. After having queſtioned them, Bonaparte ſaid to them with a ſtern voice: "Since you have taken up arms againſt "your country, you ſhould have known how "to die. I will not accept ſuch priſoners: "you may therefore return to Malta, which "is not yet in my poſſeſſion."

A bark left the port: we ſent a ſmall boat to hail her, and to conduct her to the commander in chief. When I ſaw this ſmall bark carry at her ſtern the ſtandard of the Religion, ſailing humbly beneath the ramparts, which had for two years victoriouſly reſiſted all the forces of the eaſt, commanded by the terrible Dragut; when I figured to myſelf this accumulated glory, acquired and preſerved during ſeveral ages, melt away when oppoſed to the fortune of Bonaparte, I thought I heard the ghoſts of Liſle-Adam

and Lavalette vent their dismal lamentations, and I fancied I saw Time make to Philosophy the illustrious sacrifice of the most venerable of all illusions.

At eleven o'clock another bark came off with a flag of truce. It had on board several knights who had quitted Malta, and who did not wish to be comprehended among those by whom resistance had been made. It was easy to collect from their conversation that the Maltese had but few resources left. At four in the afternoon the Junon was within half gun-shot of the island: I had a distinct view of the forts, in which I could perceive fewer men than guns.

The gates of the forts were shut, and there was no longer any communication between them and the city; a circumstance which manifested a distrust and misunderstanding between the inhabitants and the knights.

Junot,

Junot, an aid-de-camp, was ſent with the general's ultimatum. A few minutes after, a deputation of twelve Malteſe commiſſaries went on board the Orient. We were ſtationed exactly oppoſite the city, which runs from north to ſouth, and which we could ſee from one extremity to the other, the ſtreets being in a right line. They were as well lighted as they were obſcure on the night of our arrival.

On the 12th, in the morning, we were informed that the general's aid-de-camp had been very favourably received by the inhabitants. I could diſtinguiſh, with the help of my glaſs, that the paliſade by which fort St. Elmo is encloſed was aſſailed by a multitude of perſons. Thoſe who were withinſide were ſeated on the walls of the batteries, in an attitude which denoted anxious expectation. At half after eleven, the bark which

had brought the flag of truce, and which had remained under her ſtern during the night, left the Orient. We received at the ſame time orders to hoiſt our colours, and, a moment after, the ſignal was made that Malta was in our poſſeſſion.

This iſland became an intermediate ſtation between our country and the one we were about to ſubdue. It completed the conqueſt of the Mediterranean; and never had France attained ſo great a degree of power. At five o'clock our troops entered and took poſſeſſion of the forts: they were ſaluted by the fleet with five hundred guns.

We had been the firſt in quitting Toulon, and we were the laſt in entering the harbour of Malta. We did not land until the 13th in the morning. I was no ſtranger to this ſurpriſing city; and was not leſs ſtruck, on this ſecond occaſion, than on my firſt viſit,

with

with the formidable aſpect by which it is characterized.

Geographers are not decided whether Malta ſhould be annexed to Europe or to Africa. The perſons of the Malteſe, their moral character, complexion, and language, ought to determine the queſtion in favour of Africa.

Both the French and Malteſe were very much ſurpriſed at finding themſelves on the ſame ground. On our ſide it was enthuſiaſm; on their's, ſtupefaction.

All the Turkiſh and Arabian ſlaves were ſet free; and never was there a ſtronger expreſſion of joy than that which they manifeſted. When they met the French, gratitude was expreſſed in their countenances in ſo affecting a way, that I repeatedly ſhed tears. It was to me a true feaſt of the ſoul. To convey an idea of their extreme ſatisfac-

tion

tion on this occaſion, it is neceſſary to ſtate, that their governments never either bought or exchanged them. Their ſlavery was not alleviated by any hope; and they could not even dream of the termination of their ſufferings.

I went out in queſt of my old acquaintances, and viewed with a new delight the fine paintings in freſco of Calabreze, with which the roof of the church of St. John is decorated, and the magnificent picture of Michael Angelo de Caravagio, in the ſacriſty of the ſame church. I next viſited the library, where I ſaw an etruſcan vaſe found at Gozo, of the greateſt beauty, both with reſpect to the earth and the painting. I likewiſe inſpected a very large glaſs vaſe, a lamp alſo found at Gozo, and a kind of votive diſk in ſtone, with a baſs relief, repreſenting on one of the ſides, a ſphinx, with a paw placed

on

on the head of a ram. The ſtyle of this latter object ſufficiently denotes its antiquity. The other curioſities in the library are to be found in the deſcription of the cabinet of Malta, and in that which I have given in my pictureſque travels in Italy. A few months before our arrival, a tomb had been found near Malta, at a place named Earbaçeo.

On the fourth day after our landing, the commander in chief gave a ſupper, to which the members of the newly conſtituted authorities were invited. They ſaw with equal ſurpriſe and admiration the martial elegance of our generals and the aſſemblage of officers, on whoſe countenances beamed health and vigour, glory and hope. They were ſtruck by the noble phyſiognomy of the commander in chief, the expreſſion of which ſeemed to augment his ſtature.

The commotions which had taken place

in the city on our arrival, had occaſioned the ſhutting up of the coffee-houſes, and other places of public amuſement. The more reſpectable inhabitants, not yet recovered from their aſtoniſhment at the events which had taken place, kept themſelves within doors; while our ſoldiers, heated by wine and by the climate, inſpired ſo much terror among the trades-people and the lower claſſes, that they ſhut up their ſhops, and hid their females. This fine city, where we ſaw no one but ourſelves, appeared dull to us. The forts, baſtions, and ſtrong fortifications, ſeemed to announce to the army that nothing could impede its progreſs, and that it had only to march to victory; and the ſoldiers returned on board with pleaſure. The wind, however, prevented our getting out of harbour: of this delay I availed myſelf, and made a view of the interior of the port. (See Plate I. Fig. 3.)

During the whole of the 18th, we ſtood off and on before the port.

On the morning of the 19th, the Orient came out of harbour. Four thouſand men, commanded by General Vaubois, were left on the iſland, together with two officers of engineers and artillery, a civil commiſſary, and, in ſhort, all thoſe who, impelled by their curioſity, and a rambling inclination, had embarked without ſufficient reflection, and who, through fickleneſs, or a falſe mode of reaſoning, were become diſguſted on the way, repreſenting as ſo many injuries which, according to them, they were made to ſuffer, the inconveniences inſeparable from a ſea voyage. There were among them thoſe who, perfectly inſenſible to the beauties of Malta, the conveniences of its ports, and its advantageous poſition, were ſurpriſed that a rock beneath the burning clime of Africa

 ſhould

ſhould not be as verdant as the vale of Montmorency; as if each country had not received from nature her peculiar gifts! To travel, is to enjoy theſe gifts, which are deſtroyed by an endeavour to draw a compariſon between them.

If the aſpect of Malta is barren, one cannot but admire that the ſmalleſt hill, which contains an inconſiderable portion of earth, ſhould be converted into a garden equally delightful and abundant, in which all the plants of Aſia and of Africa might be inured to the climate, and made to flouriſh. This ſpecies of primary hot-houſe might ſerve to ſupply another at Toulon; and theſe productions might thus be brought by degrees to Paris, without having been expoſed to thoſe rude checks which are occaſioned by a ſudden and extreme difference of climate. It is probable that a great part of the exotic

plants

plants which we cultivate annually at a great expence in our green-houſes, where they languiſh the ſecond year, and periſh the third, might be naturalized here. The experiments made on animals ſeem to ſupport this ſyſtem of gradation.

The whole of this day, the 19th, was employed in collecting the fleet of line of battle ſhips, the ſquadron of frigates, and the convoy. At ſix in the evening a ſignal was made to obſerve the order of ſailing. The movement was general in every direction, and was productive of ſome confuſion.

Being obliged to give way to the admiral's ſhip, we perceived a little too late that the Leoben was on the point of running foul of us. The officer of the watch pretended that the Leoben was in fault, and confined himſelf ſtrictly to his tactics. Our captain, more intent to ſave the frigate againſt the

rules

rules of ſeamanſhip than to injure the Leoben, ordered a manoeuvre: the officer of the watch gave orders for another; a moment of inaction enſued; and it became too late for exertion. I was aware of our danger from the diſtortions I obſerved in every part of our captain's countenance and perſon. We ſhall fall aboard! we are running foul! we are aboard! were the three ſentences pronounced in ſucceſſion; and time for the utterance of them was ſufficient to decide on our fate. The frigates approached each other, and the rigging became entangled. The Leoben, by a ſlight manoeuvre, fell alongſide us; and this ſhock was deadened by the carriages of the field-pieces faſtened to her ſide, and which were broken. The cries of four hundred perſons, with uplifted hands, made me believe for a moment that the Leoben was the vic-

tim

tim of this firſt encounter. In endeavouring by a manœuvre to avoid or diminiſh the ſecond, we perceived on our ſtarboard the Artemiſe bearing down on us, in an oppoſite direction; and again, ahead of us, the prow of a ſhip of ſeventy-four guns, which we had perceived for the firſt time. Our terror was extreme: we were become a point at which every danger was at one and the ſame time concentrated. The Leoben, by another manœuvre, preſented to us her bow; and her fore-yard fell on our deck. This accident, which might have been fatal to many of the crew, was advantageous to us. The ſeamen, and more particularly the Turks by whom we had been joined, ſurrounded the yard, and made ſuch efforts to force it back, that the ſhock, which received no ſupport from the wind, was deadened; and for this time we eſcaped at the expenſe of a hole

made in our upper planks by the Leoben's anchor. The Artemiſe had paſſed under our ſtern; and the ſhip of the line had ſhot ahead; inſomuch, that all theſe dangers, which had gathered about us like clouds in a ſtorm, were ſtill more ſpeedily diſſipated. Nothing remained but the anger of the officer of the watch, who would gladly have ſeen us all periſh, ſooner than not convince his captain that he was in the right. We were indebted for our ſafety to the ſcantineſs of the wind, and to the carriages of the field-pieces, by which the firſt ſhock was deadened. Two merchantmen, in falling aboard each other, may do themſelves ſome miſchief, but are not likely to founder. With men of war it is different: it rarely happens that one or the other is not loſt, and frequently both.

On the 20th, it was calm during the

whole of the day; and we had to encounter the intenſe heat of the ſun in ſuch a ſeaſon, in thirty-five degrees of latitude. In the courſe of the night a breeze ſprang up: the order of ſailing was changed.

On the 21ſt, the convoy was ſtationed ahead, the ſhips of the line in the rear, and the frigates to the left.

On the two following days we had fine weather, and a fair wind, which would have enabled us to reach the iſland of Candia, provided we had not had a convoy with us, for which we were obliged to wait every moment.

During the months of June, July, and Auguſt, the north and north-eaſt winds are the trade winds of the Mediterranean; a circumſtance which renders the navigation delightful in that ſeaſon, in ſailing to the ſouth and to the weſt, but which, at the

ſame time, makes the return very uncertain, it being neceſſary to enter on it during the inclement ſeaſon.

On the 24th, we made forty-eight leagues with a breeze which bordered on a gale of wind. On the following morning, at eleven o'clock, our ſignal was made to go ahead and look out for land. At four in the afternoon we diſcovered the weſt part of the iſland of Candia. At the diſtance of twenty leagues I could diſtinguiſh mount Ida, the birth-place of Jupiter, and the country of almoſt all the gods. I had the greateſt wiſh poſſible to viſit the kingdom of Minos, and to ſeek ſome remains of the labyrinth. What I had foreſeen, however, happened: our favourable breeze prevented us from approaching the iſland.

On the 26th, at five in the morning, I found that we had ſteered in the direction

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of the eaſtern coaſt, without drawing towards it. The gale had been ſo ſtrong during the night, that the whole of the convoy was diſperſed. We ſpent all the morning in collecting the tranſports, and in ſhortening ſail for their coming up. During this manœuvre, chance diſcovered to us, through a thick fog, the Engliſh fleet, which was ſix leagues diſtant from us, ſteering to the weſt, and proceeding in queſt of us towards the northern coaſt.

On the evening of the 27th, our ſignal was made to paſs under the ſtern of the Orient. It would be difficult to convey a preciſe idea of the ſenſations we felt on approaching this ſanctuary of power, dictating its decrees amidſt three hundred ſail of veſſels, in the ſtill ſilence of the night. The moon afforded to this picture juſt as much light as was neceſſary to the enjoyment of

it. Five hundred perſons were on our deck; and the flapping of a bee's wings might have been heard: the very reſpiration was ſuſpended. Our captain was ordered to repair on board the flag-ſhip; and I cannot deſcribe the joy I felt on his return, when he informed us that we were detached from the fleet, and were to proceed without delay to Alexandria, where we were to concert meaſures with our conſul, and to learn from him whether the inhabitants were appriſed of our coming, and how they were diſpoſed towards us. He added, that it was our deſtiny to land the firſt in Africa, there to collect together our countrymen, and to ſhelter them from the earlieſt movements of the inhabitants on the approach of the fleet. From that moment we ſet every ſail we could carry, to accompliſh as ſpeedily as poſſible the ſixty leagues we had ſtill to run.

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The wind, however, fell during the night: for a few hours we had a gentle breeze; but, during the reft of the time, the way we made was entirely owing to the impulfion given to the fea, and to the currents, which carried us towards the point of our deftination.

Our orders, after having warned our countrymen to be on their guard, were to return to the fleet, which was to cruife and to wait for us at the diftance of fix leagues from Cape Brulé. (See the Chart.) On the 28th at noon, we were within thirty leagues of Alexandria; and at four in the afternoon, our feamen at the maft-head cried out, "*land.*" At fix o'clock we faw it from the deck.

The breeze continued during the night; and on the 29th at day-break, I faw the coaft to the weft, ftretching like a white

ribbon over the blue horizon of the ſea. Not a tree, not a habitation was to be diſcovered: it was not merely nature in her ſaddeſt array, but the deſtruction of nature. It was ſilence and death. It did not, however, affect the gaiety of our ſeamen: one of them, pointing to the deſert, ſaid to his comrade, "*Look, there are the ſix acres which have been decreed you.*" The general burſt of laughter which this pleaſantry occaſioned, may ſerve to ſhew that courage is diſintereſted, or at leaſt that it ſprings from a nobler ſentiment than that of intereſt.

This part of the coaſt is dangerous in ſtormy weather, and during the fogs of winter, when the low, flat land diſappears, and is perceived only when it is too late to ſhun it. Our good fortune, however, allowed us to work in the direction of Cape Durazzo, which we ſought by ſteering to the eaſt a quarter ſouth.

Ten leagues from the Cape, and five from Alexandria, we ſaw a ruin which is named the Arabian tower. It appeared to me to be a baſtioned ſquare, at ſome diſtance from which there is a round tower. I could have wiſhed to have been able to diſtinguiſh the details better, ſo as to have judged whether it is an Arabian building, or of antique conſtruction, and to what date of antiquity it belongs; whether it is the Tapoſiris of the ancients, which Procopius deſcribes as the tomb of Oſiris, or the Cherſoneſus of Strabo; or, laſtly, Plinthine, from whence the gulf derived its name. Since that time the garriſon of Alexandria has detached reconnoitering parties to this poſt. The reports of theſe parties having, however, been entirely confined to their military operations, I have not been able to collect any information relative to the origin of theſe ruins; and the enquiries

quiries I have made, have merely tended to augment the curiofity with which their bulk and extent have infpired me. In general, the whole of this weftern coaft, comprehending the great and fmall fhoals of Cyrenaica, formerly well inhabited, and containing republics and other forms of government, is at this time one of the moft neglected countries in the univerfe, and is brought to our recollection by the fine medals alone with which it has fupplied us.

To the right and left of us our promifed land appeared ftill more fteril than that of the Jews. It is true, that thus far it had not coft us fo dear; that, if it had not rained on us quails ready roafted, our manna was not corrupted; that we had not been tormented by raging colics; and that we had, notwithftanding, preferved all that had fallen to the fhare of the children of Ifrael. The

Bedouin Arabs, however, who are difperfed over this country, might have inflicted on us fufferings equal to theirs, and have been equally difaftrous to us. It is notwithftanding faid, that, during the laft twenty years, they have been true to their engagement entered into with the factory of Alexandria, by which, after exacting certain duties, they reftore thofe who have been fhipwrecked, at the rate of twenty dollars per head, inftead of killing them, as was formerly their cuftom.

At one o'clock a lieutenant was fent on fhore. He had fcarcely ftepped into the boat when we looked for his return, and counted the minutes as they paffed. At three leagues diftance I made a view of Alexandria. (See Fig. 4. Plate I.)

By the help of our glaffes we faw the tricolour flag difplayed over our conful's houfe.

I figured

I figured to myſelf the ſurpriſe he was about to feel, and that which we were preparing againſt the following day for the ſheik of Alexandria.

When the ſhadows of the evening delineated the outline of the city; when I could diſtinguiſh on our approach the two ports; the thick walls, flanked by a great number of towers, which at preſent contain nothing but hillocks of ſand, and a few gardens, in which the pale green hue of the palm-trees ſcarcely tempers the burning whiteneſs of the ſoil; the Turkiſh fortreſs, the moſques, their minarets or towers, and the celebrated pillar of Pompey, my imagination recurred to paſt ages. I ſaw art triumph over nature, and the genius of Alexander employ the active medium of commerce, to lay on a barren ſoil the foundations of a ſuperb city, which he ſelected to be the depoſitary of

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the trophies of the conqueſt of the univerſe. I ſaw the Ptolomies invite thither the arts and ſciences, and form the library, to deſtroy which the hand of barbariſm was ſeveral years employed. It is there, ſaid I to myſelf, reflecting on Cleopatra, Cæſar, and Antony, that the empire of glory yielded to the empire of voluptuouſneſs. I next figured to myſelf ſtern ignorance fixing its ſeat on the ruins of the maſter-pieces of the arts, completing their deſtruction, but unable, notwithſtanding, to disfigure utterly the fine characteriſtics by which they are ſtamped, and which belong to the grand principles of their original plans. From this pre-occupation, from this happineſs of meditating in view of great objects, I was rouſed by a gun fired from our frigate, to bring-to a veſſel which had ſet all her ſails to get into the port of Alexandria in ſpite of us, and without

without doubt to carry thither the tidings of the arrival of the fleet. The night coming on, we ſoon loſt ſight of her. Our uneaſineſs reſpecting the boat increaſed every moment, and was converted into terror. At midnight we heard the voices of perſons terrified; and ſoon after our conſul and his interpreter, who had eſcaped from the avenging ſabre of the muſſulman, and from the terror ſpread through the country, came on board. They informed us that an Engliſh fleet of fourteen ſhips of the line had quitted its anchorage off Alexandria the evening before; and that the Engliſh had declared they were in queſt of us, to bring us to action. They had been taken for French; and the inhabitants of the country, already appriſed of our projects, and of the taking of Malta, had inſtantly reſorted to arms. The ſtrong holds had been fortified, the militia incor-

porated

porated with the regular troops, and an army of Bedoüins collected. The latter are wandering Arabs, againſt whom the inhabitants wage war, but with whom they unite whenever a common enemy is to be encountered.

Our horizon was obſcured by the preſence of the Engliſh. When I recollected that only three days before we felt a regret at being detained by the calms, and that unleſs for them we ſhould have fallen into the midſt of the enemy's fleet, to which we muſt have made a diſcovery of our own, I from that moment became a fataliſt, and commended myſelf to the ſtar of Bonaparte.

The ſheik had conſented to the departure of the conſul, on no other condition than that he ſhould be accompanied by ſeveral ſeamen belonging to Alexandria, by whom he was to be conveyed back. They ſpoke the *lingua-franca*, and underſtood Italian.

I converſed

I converſed with them; and they added to what the conſul had told us, that the Engliſh had ſteered to the eaſt to ſeek us at Cyprus, where they thought we had ſtopped.

We made ſail in queſt of our fleet, and at day-break diſcovered the firſt diviſion of the convoy. At ſeven o'clock we were within hail of the Orient.

It fell to my lot to accompany the conſul on board the flag-ſhip. We were to communicate to the general whatever might intereſt him moſt powerfully under ſuch critical circumſtances. The Engliſh had been ſeen; and they might come up with us every moment. It blew a freſh gale; and the convoy was blended with the fleet, in ſuch confuſion, that the moſt terrible defeat would have enſued had the enemy appeared. I watched the general's countenance, which did not change in the ſlighteſt degree. He

made

made me repeat the ſtatement he had juſt heard; and after a ſilence of a few minutes, ordered the troops to be landed.

The diſpoſitions which were made, were to bring the convoy as near the land as the danger of getting aground at a time when the wind blew ſo ſtrong would allow. The men of war formed a circle of defence on the outſide; the ſails were taken in, and the anchors let go. Theſe arrangements were ſcarcely made, when we received orders to cruiſe off the port, as near as the wind would permit us, and to make falſe attacks by way of diverſion.

The breeze ſtill freſhened, and the ſea was ſo rough, that we endeavoured ineffectually, during the remainder of the day, to get up our anchor. At night it was too ſtormy to attempt this without a riſk of our carrying away our maſts, and of run-

ning foul of and ſinking the boats with troops on board, which effected their landing with unprecedented difficulty and danger. The launches received one by one, and at random, thoſe who came down the ſides of the veſſels. When they were filled, the waves threatened every moment to ſink them, at the ſame time that, driven by the wind, they in many inſtances encountered, and fell on board of each other. After having eſcaped theſe dangers, when they drew within ſhore, they knew not how to make their landing good without being daſhed to pieces by the breakers. During the night, a launch filled with troops, which had loſt all ſteerage-way, came under our ſtern, and aſked for aſſiſtance. The danger to which thoſe who were on board her were expoſed, cauſed in me an emotion which was augmented by my fancying that I knew the

voices

voices of all thofe who cried for help. We threw out a rope to thefe poor wretches; but fcarcely had they laid hold of it, when it became neceffary to cut it, the waves dafhing the launch againft the fide of our veffel, which it threatened to ftave in. The cries of thefe unfortunate men, when they found themfelves abandoned to their fate, pierced to the inmoft receffes of our fouls; and the filence which fucceeded filled us with the moft melancholy reflections. Our terror was augmented by the darknefs; and the operations for landing were as flow as they were difaftrous. However, by fix o'clock the next morning, the firft of July, a fufficient number of troops were landed to attack and carry a fmall fort, called Le Marabou. There the tri-colour military flag was hoifted for the firft time in Africa.

CHAPTER III.

Storming of Alexandria—General Aſpect of the Town gloomy and deſerted—Troubleſomeneſs of the Dogs—Speech of Bonaparte to the Sheik of Alexandria—Pompey's Pillar—Gardens—Cleopatra's Needle—Principal Moſque, and other remarkable Buildings.

ON the 2d the ſea was leſs ruffled. We got under way, and perceived that the beech was filled with our ſoldiers. By noon they were under the walls of Alexandria, the centre being ſtationed at Pompey's pillar, behind ſome ſmall hillocks formed by the ruins of the ancient city. The old walls

preſented

presented to the valour of our soldiery a succession of breaches. As soon as one of the columns was in motion, the others drew up in battle array, marched, and attacked at the same time. In approaching some old ditches, they discovered more walls than they had been able to see at a first view. A very heavy fire kept up by the besieged, surprised our troops for a moment, but did not check their impetuosity. The most practicable approach was sought under the fire of the enemy: it was found at the west angle, where was situated the ancient port of Kibotos. Our troops stormed: Kleber, Menou, and Lescale were wounded by the enemy's fire, and by the fall of the fragments of walls. Koraim, sheik of Alexandria, who was in every part of the battle, mistook Menou for the commander in chief mortally wounded. In this way the courage

of the beſieged was ſupported for a ſhort time. Our adverſaries maintained their ground; and we were under the neceſſity of putting the whole of them to death at the breach, where two hundred of our ſoldiers fell.

Our frigate was ordered to protect the entry of the convoy into the old port; and I availed myſelf of this opportunity to go on ſhore. An old prophecy had ſaid, that as ſoon as a French veſſel ſhould enter the old port, Alexandria would ceaſe to be in poſſeſſion of the Muſſulmans. Our boat verified this prediction for the moment.

It would be impoſſible for me to deſcribe what I felt on landing at Alexandria, where there was no one to receive us, or to prevent our going on ſhore. We could ſcarcely prevail on a group of beggars, leaning on their crutches, to point out to us the head-quarters.

ters. All the houſes were ſhut: thoſe who had not dared to fight had fled; and thoſe who had not been killed in the combat, had concealed themſelves, for fear of being put to death, according to the oriental cuſtom. Every thing was new to our ſenſations; the ſoil, the form of the buildings, the perſons, cuſtoms, and language of the inhabitants. The firſt proſpect which preſented itſelf to our view, was an extenſive burying-ground, covered with innumerable tomb-ſtones of white marble, on a white ſoil. Among theſe monuments were ſeen wandering ſeveral meagre women, with long tattered garments, reſembling ſo many ghoſts. The ſilence was only interrupted by the ſcreeching of the kites which hovered over this ſanctuary of death. We paſſed from thence into narrow and deſerted ſtreets. In croſſing Alexandria, the deſcription which Volney

 has

has given of that city was brought to my remembrance; form, colour, and ſenſation, every thing, in ſhort, is repreſented by him with ſuch a degree of truth, that, on looking over his work ſome months after, I fancied that I was entering Alexandria once more. Had Volney deſcribed all Egypt in the ſame way, no one would ever have thought it neceſſary to undertake any other deſcription, or to make any new drawings of that country.

During the whole of my progreſs through this long and melancholy city, Europe and its gaiety were brought to my recollection only by the chirping and activity of the ſparrows. I could not recogniſe the dog, the friend of man, the faithful and generous companion, the gay and loyal courtier. Here this animal is a dull and ſelfiſh brute, a ſtranger to the maſter beneath whoſe roof

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he dwells, and, ſeparated from the inmates without ceaſing to be a ſlave, loſes ſight of him whoſe aſylum he defends, and on whoſe bleeding carcaſs he feeds without abhorrence. The following anecdote will fully pourtray his character.

On the day of my landing, having neglected to bring aſhore linen to ſhift myſelf, I was deſirous to go on board the Junon frigate, which I thought was ſtationed off the entrance of the harbour. I hired a ſmall Turkiſh bark, and we ſteered towards that point. Having reached the frigate, we found that it was not the Junon; and another was pointed out to us in the road at half a league's diſtance. The ſun was ſetting: I had already made two-thirds of my way; and it was ſtill poſſible to ſleep on board. We now ſailed towards the frigate in the road, which was ſtill not the Junon: ſhe was cruiſing

cruiſing in the offing: we were therefore under the neceſſity of returning; but the breeze had freſhened, and the ſwell was ſo great, that it was with difficulty we could deſcry the land towards which we had to bend our courſe. My conductor gave me charge of the tiller, to beſtow his whole attention on the ſail.

It was not eaſy for me to find the direction in which I was to ſteer; and I now began to feel that it was in a manner devoting one's-ſelf to deſtruction, to be at ſuch a time of night at the mercy of the winds, on a rough ſea, and without any other companion than one who, in common with all his countrymen, had every reaſon to hate the French, and to ſeek to avenge himſelf on any of that nation who might fall in his way. I put on a confidential air, and even affected to be gay: we at length reached the

ſhore,

ſhore, the object of all my hopes and wiſhes: it was, however, eleven o'clock at night. I was half a league from the head-quarters; and I had to croſs a city which had been taken by ſtorm in the morning, with not one of the ſtreets of which I was acquainted. I could not prevail on my boatman, by any offer of recompenſe, to leave his bark and accompany me. I ſet out alone, and, defying the ghoſts of the dead, croſſed the burying-ground, the road with which I was moſt familiar. As ſoon as I had reached the neareſt habitations of the living, I was aſſailed by multitudes of ferocious curs, which attacked me from the doors, the ſtreets, and the houſe-tops. Their yelping was continued from houſe to houſe, and from family to family. I could perceive, however, that the war which they waged againſt me was not a war of *coalition*, for as ſoon as I had

paſſed

paſſed the property of thoſe by which I had been attacked, they were driven back by thoſe which came to receive me at the frontiers. Not knowing the abject ſtate in which they live, I dared not ſtrike them, from an apprehenſion of their howling, and thus kindling up the wrath of their maſters againſt me. The darkneſs was diminiſhed by the light of the ſtars only, and by the tranſparency which the night always has in this climate. To profit by this ſmall portion of light, and to eſcape from the yelping of the curs, and take a road which could not lead me aſtray, I quitted the ſtreets, and reſolved to walk along the beech. My paſſage was, however, barred by the walls and timber-yards, which extended to the ſea-ſhore. At length, after wading through the ſea to ſhun the curs, and ſcaling the walls to avoid the ſea when there was too great a depth,

depth, wet, covered with perſpiration, and exhauſted by terror and fatigue, I reached one of our out-poſts at midnight, fully perſuaded that curs are the ſixth, and the moſt dreadful of the plagues of Egypt.

In the morning, on arriving at the head-quarters, I found Bonaparte ſurrounded by the grandees of the city, and by the members of the old government, from whom he received the oath of fidelity. He addreſſed himſelf in the following terms to the Sheik Koraim: "I have taken you in arms, and "I might treat you as a priſoner: as you "have, however, behaved with courage, and "as I think bravery inſeparable from honour, "I give you back your arms, and I think "that you will be as faithful to the repub-"lic as you have been to a bad govern-"ment." I could diſtinguiſh in the countenance of this able, enterpriſing man, a diſ-

ſimulation,

ſimulation, ſhaken, but not ſubdued, by the generous conduct of the commander in chief. He was not as yet acquainted with our reſources, and entertained ſome doubt whether what had paſſed was not owing to a *coup-de-main!* But when he ſaw thirty thouſand men, and the heavy ordnance and field-pieces landed, he endeavoured to captivate the good graces of Bonaparte, was never abſent from head-quarters, and was in the anti-chamber before the commander in chief was out of bed, a circumſtance very remarkable in a Muſſulman. (See his portrait, Plate XLVIII. Fig. 2.)

The firſt drawing I made was a view of the new port, from the ſmall ſand-bank to the quarter of the Francs, which, in Cleopatra's time, was the delightful ſpot on which her palace was built, and where the theatre ſtood. (See Plate III. No. 2.)

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On the 4th, in the morning, I accompanied the commander in chief, who viſited the forts, that is to ſay, a collection of clumſy buildings in a ruinous ſtate, in which worn-out guns reſted on ſtones that ſerved them for carriages. The general's orders were to demoliſh whatever was unſerviceable, and to repair only what might be uſeful, to prevent the approach of the Bedouins. He paid particular attention to the batteries for the defence of the harbours.

We paſſed near Pompey's pillar. This monument is in the predicament of almoſt every thing famous, which loſes on a near ſcrutiny. It was named Pompey's pillar in the fifteenth century, when learning began to recover itſelf from the torpid ſtate in which it had ſo long languiſhed. At that epoch, men of ſcience, but not obſervers, beſtowed names on all the monuments; and theſe

theſe names have been handed down by tradition, and without being diſputed, from century to century. A monument had been raiſed to Pompey at Alexandria: it had diſappeared, and was thought to be recovered in this pillar or column, which has ſince been converted into a trophy erected to the memory of Septimius Severus. It is, however, placed on the ruins of the ancient city; and in the time of Septimius Severus, the city of the Ptolomies was not in a ruinous ſtate. To ſupport this column by a ſolid foundation, an obeliſk has been ſunk in the earth, on which is placed a very clumſy pedeſtal, having a fine ſhaft, and ſurmounted by a corinthian capital of bad workmanſhip. (See Plate IV. No. 3.)

If the ſhaft of this column, ſeparating it from the pedeſtal and the capital, once belonged to an ancient edifice, it is an evidence

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of its magnificence, and of the ſkill with which it was executed. It ought therefore to be ſaid, that what is called Pompey's pillar, is a fine column, and not a fine monument; and that a column is not a monument. It ſhould be ſaid, that the column of St. Maria Maggiore, notwithſtanding it is one of the fineſt in exiſtence, has not the character of a monument; that it is merely a fragment; and that, if the columns of Trajan and Antoninus are not in the ſame predicament, it is becauſe they appear as coloſſal cylinders, on which the hiſtory of the glorious expeditions of theſe two emperors is pompouſly diſplayed, and which, if reduced to their ſimple form and dimenſions, would be nothing more than dull and heavy monuments.

The earth about the foundations of Pompey's pillar having been cleared away by

 time,

time, two fragments of an obelifk of white marble, the only monument of that fubftance which I have feen in Egypt, have been added to the original bafe, to render it more folid.

Excavations made round the circumference of this column, would, no doubt, afford fome information relative to its origin. The fhaking of the earth, and the form it takes on treading on it, feem to atteft that thefe refearches would not be fruitlefs. They would perhaps difcover the bafe and *atrium* of the portico to which this column belonged, which has been the fubject of differtations made by literati who have feen the drawings only, or whofe information has been limited to the defcriptions of travellers. Thefe travellers have neglected to apprize them, that fragments of columns of the fame fubftance and diameter are found in

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the vicinity; and that the ſhaking of the earth indicates the deſtruction of great edifices buried beneath, the forms of which may be diſtinguiſhed on the ſurface, ſuch as a ſquare of a conſiderable ſize, and a large circus, the principal dimenſions of which may be meaſured, notwithſtanding it is covered with ſand and ruins.

After having obſerved that the column, entitled *Pompey's pillar*, is very chaſte both in ſtyle and execution; that the pedeſtal and capital are not formed of the ſame granite as the ſhaft; that their workmanſhip is heavy, and appears to be merely a rough draught; and that the foundations, made up of fragments, indicate a modern conſtruction; it may be concluded, that this monument is not antique, and that it may have been erected either in the time of the Greek emperors, or of the caliphs; ſince, if the capital

pital and pedeſtal are well enough wrought to belong to the former of theſe periods, they are not ſo perfect but that art may have reached ſo far in the latter.

Subterraneous reſearches made on this ſpot might alſo aſcertain the ſite of the city in the time of the Ptolomies, when its commerce and ſplendour changed its original plan, and rendered it immenſe. That of the caliphs, which ſtill exiſts, was but a diminution of the ancient city, notwithſtanding it comprehends within itſelf, at this time, plains and deſerts. This circumvallation being built of ruins, the edifices bring unceaſingly to the remembrance deſtruction and ravage. The jambs and lintels of the doors of the dwelling-houſes and fortreſſes conſiſt entirely of columns of granite, which the workmen have not taken the pains to ſhâpe to the uſe to which they have applied

plied them. They appear to have been left there merely with a view to atteſt the grandeur and magnificence of the buildings, the ruins of which they are. In other places a great number of columns have been applied to the conſtruction of the walls, to ſupport and level them; and theſe columns, having reſiſted the ravages of time, now reſemble batteries. In ſhort, theſe Arabian and Turkiſh buildings, the productions of the neceſſities of war, diſplay a confuſion of epochs, and of various induſtries, more ſtriking and more approximated examples of which are no where elſe to be found. The Turks, more eſpecially, adding abſurdity to profanation, have not only blended with the granite, bricks and calcareous ſtones, but even logs and planks; and from theſe different elements, which have ſo little analogy to each other, and are ſo ſtrangely united,

have prefented a monftrous affemblage of the fplendour of human induftry, and its degradation.

In returning from Pompey's pillar to the modern city, we paffed through that of the Arabs, or rather the one which was encompaffed by their walls, for at this time it is merely a defert containing a few enclofures, which, during the months of the inundation, are gardens, and which at other times afford nourifhment to a greater or fmaller number of trees and vegetables, in proportion to the fize of the ciftern with which each is provided. This ciftern is the fource and principle of their exiftence: when it fails, the gardens are once more converted into fand and rubbifh.

At the gate of each of thefe gardens are to be feen monuments of a benevolent and charitable feeling. Thefe are refervoirs into which

which water is pumped as often as it is neceſſary, and which preſent to the way-worn traveller what is needful to ſatisfy his moſt preſſing want in this burning climate—thirſt.

The conduits of the ciſterns are to be ſeen every-where, communicating with each other, and having their orifices covered by the baſe or capital of an ancient column, hollowed out in the centre, and anſwering the purpoſe of the ſtone which ſurrounds the mouth of a well.

For the conſtruction of a new ciſtern, it is ſufficient to dig and bank in reſervoirs of different depths, and afterwards to cut a drain, carrying it on until it meets with another excavation. In this way it receives the common benefits of the inundation, which, by the level that the water ſeeks, fills the whole of the vacuum preſented to it.

The great pool or confervatory of water at Alexandria, is one of the principal antiquities of the middle age of Egypt, and one of the fineft monuments of that defcription, whether its fize be confidered, or the intelligence which its conftruction difplays. Notwithftanding one part of it is in a very ruinous ftate, and the other in need of repairs, it contains a quantity of water which fuffices for the confumption of men and animals during two years. We arrived at Alexandria in the month preceding that in which the water was to be renewed, and we found it very good and fweet.

Our attention was attracted by a ruin of a reddifh hue, which the catholics call the houfe of St. Catharine the learned, relative to whom they have a tradition, that fhe was wedded to Jefus Chrift four centuries after his death. This ruin is of Roman conftruc-

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tion; and the conduits, covered by ſtalactites, imply that it was formerly a bath.

We came afterwards to the obeliſk, named Cleopatra's needle: another obeliſk thrown down at its ſide, indicates that both of them formerly decorated one of the entrances of the palace of the Ptolomies, the ruins of which are ſtill to be ſeen at ſome diſtance from thence. An inſpection into the preſent ſtate of theſe obeliſks, and the fiſſures which exiſted at the time even when they were fixed on this ſpot, prove that they were merely fragments at that period, and that they had been brought from Memphis, or from upper Egypt. They might be conveyed to France without difficulty, and would there become a trophy of conqueſt, and a very characteriſtic one, as they are in themſelves a monument, and as the hieroglyphics with which they are covered render

them

them preferable to Pompey's pillar, which is merely a column, ſomewhat larger indeed than is every-where to be found. On digging ſince round the baſe of this obeliſk, it has been found that it was placed on a tablet of hard ſtone. The pedeſtals which have always been added in Europe to this ſpecies of monument, are an ornament by which its character is changed.

On examining the Saracen monument in the vicinity of Cleopatra's needle, I found that its foundations belonged to a Greek or Roman edifice. The capitals of connected columns, of the doric order, the ſhafts of which are ſunk below the level of the ſea, are ſtill to be ſeen. Strabo has obſerved, that the baſe of the palace of Ptolomy was waſhed by the ſea. Theſe ruins may at one and the ſame time prove the veracity of Strabo's relation, and aſcertain the ſite of that palace.

In returning to the lower part of the harbour by the ſea-ſhore, ruins of edifices of different ages are to be found, having ſuffered alike from time and from the waves. Veſtiges of baths are to be diſtinguiſhed there, ſeveral apartments of which ſtill exiſt, having been poſteriorly fabricated in walls of more remote antiquity. Theſe edifices appeared to me to be of Arabic conſtruction; and for their preſervation, a kind of pile work in columns has been made, which has now the reſemblance of floating batteries. Their immenſe number evinces the magnificence of the palaces they once decorated. After having paſſed the extremity of the harbour, large Saracen edifices are met with, having an air of grandeur, and a mixture of ſtyle, by which the obſerver is perplexed. Friezes ornamented with doric triglyphs, and ſurmounted by arched vaults, would lead one

one to imagine that theſe edifices were conſtructed from antique fragments, which the Saracens blended to adapt them to the ſtyle of their architecture. The doors of theſe edifices may give an idea of the indeſtructible quality of the ſycamore wood, which has remained unaltered, while the iron work of the doors has yielded to time, and entirely diſappeared. Behind this kind of fortreſs, are Arabian baths, moſt magnificently decorated. Our ſoldiers, who found them ready heated, had taken poſſeſſion of them to waſh their linen, ſo that no other uſe could then be made of them. I ſhall therefore defer my deſcription of this kind of baths to another opportunity, and refer my readers, who wiſh to have an idea of the pleaſure which they communicate, to the one which Savary has given.

Near theſe baths, one of the principal

mofques, formerly a primitive church entitled Saint Athanafius, is fituated. This edifice, in as ruinous a ftate as its ftyle is magnificent, may give fome idea of the careleffnefs of the Turks relative to the objects of which they are the moft jealous. Before our arrival, they did not fuffer a chriftian to approach this building, and chofe rather to place a centinel over it than to repair the doors, which, in the ftate in which we found them, would neither fhut nor turn on their hinges.

In the middle of the court-yard of this mofque is a fmall octagonal temple, which contains a bowl of Egyptian black marble, with white and yellow fpots, of incomparable beauty, both on account of the fubftance of which it is formed, and of the innumerable hieroglyphical figures with which it is covered, both withinfide and without.

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This monument, which is without doubt a ſarcophagus of ancient Egypt, will perhaps be hereafter illuſtrated by volumes of diſſertations. It may be conſidered as a very valuable antique, and as one of our moſt precious ſpoils in Egypt, with which it is to be wiſhed that our national muſeum may be enriched. Dolomieu, who was with me when this valuable monument was diſcovered, partook of my enthuſiaſm.

From the galleries of the minaret or tower of this moſque, I made the drawing (No. 2, Plate V.), which contains a bird's-eye view of every part of the new harbour. Cloſe to the moſque are three upright columns, which have not been noticed by any traveller. It would appear by the delicate workmanſhip of theſe columns, that they conſtituted a part of ſome antique monuments: it would therefore be intereſting to

dig

dig round their bafes. The wide fpace, however, which they occupy, would lead to a conjecture, that they are not ftationed where they were originally intended to be placed. Be this as it may, they are the remains of a large and magnificent edifice.

We proceeded from thence to the gate of Rofetta, which is fortified, and at which the Turks defended themfelves on our arrival. Here a group of houfes forms a kind of town, which leaves an unoccupied fpace of half a league between this part of the city and that which is in the vicinity of the ports. All the horrors of war ftill exifted in this quarter, where I met with an incident which afforded me the ftrongeft contraft poffible. A young woman, fair and with a ruddy complexion, was feated, furrounded by the dead and by the rubbifh, on a fragment of a ruin ftill covered with blood. She was the picture

ture of the angel of the reſurrection. When, attracted by a compaſſionate feeling, I teſtified my ſurpriſe at finding her in this forlorn ſtate, ſhe told me, with a charming ingenuouſneſs, that ſhe was waiting for her huſband, with whom ſhe was going to paſs the night in the deſert. To her this was no difficulty: ſhe was about to repair thither to ſleep with as little reluctance as if a down bed was to be her portion. From this anecdote ſome idea may be formed of the lot which awaited the women whom love had inſpired with the courage to follow their huſbands on this expedition.

The greater part of the diviſions, after they were landed, had merely paſſed through Alexandria to encamp in the deſert. I was alſo under the neceſſity of quitting this city, a place of great importance in hiſtory, where the monuments of every epoch, and the

wrecks

wrecks of the arts of ſo many nations, are heaped together confuſedly; and where the ravages of wars, ages, and of a humid climate, impregnated with ſea-ſalt, have been productive of greater changes, and have wrought more miſchief than in any other part of Egypt.

CHAPTER IV.

March from Alexandria to the Interior of the Country—Paſs Beda—Affecting Incident and fatal Effects of Jealouſy—The March much haraſſed by the Arabs—Optical Deception in the Deſert, giving the Appearance of Water—Reach the Nile at Rahmanieh—Firſt Encounter with the Mamelukes under Murad-Bey—The Author's Voyage from Alexandria to Roſetta—Deſcription of the latter Place—Character of the cultivating Arab, contraſted with the Bedouin—Battle of Salmie—Mameluke Feaſt and Entertainment.

BONAPARTE, who had obtained poſſeſſion of Alexandria with the ſame rapidity with which St. Louis had taken Damietta,

mietta, was not guilty of the ſame blunder. Without giving the enemy time to rally, and without affording his troops an opportunity to view the penury of Alexandria and its barren territory, he marched off the diviſions in proportion as they landed, and without allowing them time to collect any information relative to the places which they were going to occupy. Among others, an officer, on the eve of his departure, ſaid to his detachment, " My friends, you are to " ſleep at Beda to-night: you underſtand; " at Beda. This is all the difficulty you " will have to encounter: let us march, my " friends;" and the ſoldiers marched. It would certainly be difficult to cite a more ſtriking trait of ingenuouſneſs on the one hand, and of confidence on the other. It is with this heedleſs courage that enterpriſes are undertaken by ſome, which others would

 not

not have dared to project; and that what appears inconceivable is executed. They reached Beda, which they fancied to be a village built and peopled like ours, more inquiſitive to look about them, than ſurpriſed. They could there find nothing but a well choked up by ſtones, between the interſtices of which a little brackiſh muddy water was found. This water was collected in goblets, and a ſmall quantity of it diſtributed to them, as if it had been brandy. This was the firſt halt made by a part of our troops, in another quarter of the globe, ſeparated from their country by ſeas covered with enemies, and by deſerts a thouſand times more formidable ſtill. Their forlorn ſituation, however, neither abated their courage, nor diminiſhed their gaiety.

If my reader be deſirous to appreciate the domeſtic ſlavery of the eaſtern nations, and

is prepared to ſhudder at the atrocioufneſs of jealouſy, when it is ſupported by a received prejudice, and when its tranſports are abſolved by religion, let him read the following anecdote.

On the ſecond day's march of our troops, after their departure from Alexandria, ſome of the ſoldiers, in paſſing near Beda, in the deſert, met with a young woman whoſe face was covered with blood. In one of her arms ſhe held an infant, and extended the other in ſearch of an object which might either inflict vengeance on her, or ſerve her for a guide. Their curioſity being excited, they called for their conductor, who was at the ſame time their interpreter; and, on approaching, heard the ſobs of this wretched female, whom cruelty had deprived of her ſight. Aſtoniſhed at ſeeing her in this ſad condition, and accompanied by an infant, in

the midſt of a deſert, they queſtioned her, and learned that the ſhocking ſpectacle which they had in view, was the effect and reſult of a fit of jealouſy. The victim did not dare to murmur, but offered up prayers for the innocent babe which partook of her misfortunes, and which was about to periſh through miſery and want. Our ſoldiers, moved by pity, inſtantly gave her a part of their rations, and loſt ſight of their own neceſſities, on contemplating others, which were ſtill more urgent. They had juſt deprived themſelves of their ſmall portion of water, which was extremely ſcarce, and which they were about to be abſolutely in need of, when they ſaw a madman approach, who, feaſting his ſight on the ſpectacle of his revenge, kept his victims conſtantly in view. He ſnatched from the woman the bread and water ſhe held in her hands, the

laſt ſources of exiſtence which compaſſion had juſt granted to miſery. "Forbear!" he exclaimed: "ſhe has forfeited her own "honour, and has tarniſhed mine. That in-"fant is my opprobrium; it is the offspring "of guilt." Our ſoldiers endeavoured to reſiſt his depriving the female of the ſuccours they had juſt afforded her; when his jealouſy was inflamed, becauſe the object of his fury was alſo become an object of pity. He drew a poniard, with which he gave his wife a mortal ſtab; and, ſeizing the infant, held it in the air, and daſhed it lifeleſs on the ground. Then, with an air of ferocious ſtupidity, he ſtood motionleſs, looking ſtedfaſtly at thoſe who ſurrounded him, and braving their vengeance.

I enquired whether there were any laws to repreſs ſo atrocious an abuſe of authority. I was told, that this man had *done wrong* to

ſtab his wife, becauſe, if God had vouchſafed to ſpare her life, this wretched creature might, at the expiration of forty days, have been received into a houſe, and kept on charity.

General Kleber's diviſion, under the command of General Dugua, had marched towards Roſetta, to cover the flotilla which had entered the Nile. On the 5th and 6th of July, the army was in full march by Birket and Demenhur, the Arabs attacking the advance-guard, and haraſſing the main body, inſomuch, that death was the portion of the ſtraggler. Deſaix was on the point of being made priſoner, in conſequence of his having remained fifty paces in the rear of the column. Le Mireur, an officer of diſtinguiſhed reputation, and who, in conſequence of a momentary abſence, had neglected to comply with the requeſt made to him to come

up,

up, was aſſaſſinated within a hundred paces of the advance-guard. Adjutant-general Galois was killed in carrying an order to the commander in chief; and Adjutant Delanau made priſoner at a very ſmall diſtance from the army, in croſſing a ditch. A price being demanded for his ranſom, the Arabs diſputed the booty among themſelves, and, to terminate the diſpute, blew out the brains of this intereſting young man.

The Mamelukes, who had come out to meet the French army, were ſeen for the firſt time in the vicinity of Demenhur. They did nothing more than reconnoitre; and their appearance on this occaſion, together with the inſignificant battle of Chebreiſſa, had enabled our ſoldiers to form a judgment of them, and had removed that uncertain emotion, bordering on terror, which is conſtantly inſpired by an unknown enemy. On

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their ſide, having obſerved that our army was entirely compoſed of infantry, a deſcription of ſoldiery for whom they have a ſovereign contempt, they made themſelves certain of an eaſy victory, and forbore to haraſs our march, which was rendered ſufficiently painful by its length, by the heat of the climate, and by the ſufferings of hunger and thirſt; to which may be added, the torments of a hope conſtantly cheated, and conſtantly renewed. In reality, it was in the midſt of heaps of corn that our ſoldiers wanted bread; while they were a prey to thirſt, with the image of a vaſt lake before their eyes. This puniſhment, of a new deſcription, requires explanation, as it reſults from an illuſion peculiar to this country. It is produced by the reflection of ſalient objects on the oblique rays of the ſun, refracted by the heat of the burning ſoil; and this phenomenon has ſo

truly

truly the appearance of water, that the obſerver is deceived by it over and over again. It provokes a thirſt, which is the more importunate, as the inſtant when it preſents itſelf to the view is the hotteſt time of the day. It appears to me, that an idea of it could not be conveyed by a drawing, which would be merely the repreſentation of a reſemblance. To ſupply this defect, however, it is only neceſſary to read a report made to the Inſtitute of Cairo, and publiſhed by the elder Didot, in which Monge has deſcribed and analyzed this phenomenon, with that erudition and ſagacity by which that philoſopher is characterized.*

On the approach of the army the villages were abandoned, the inhabitants carrying off

* See, in the Memoirs of the Inſtitute at Cairo, a paper by this ingenious author on this optical phenomenon, which is called *mirage*. TR.

with

with them whatever might have been uſeful to the ſubſiſtence of our troops.

Piſtachio-nuts were the firſt relief which the ſoil of Egypt afforded to the ſoldiery; and of this fruit they never ceaſed to retain a grateful remembrance. On reaching the Nile, they plunged into that river without waiting to undreſs themſelves, to allay their thirſt by the action of the abſorbent veſſels.

When the army had paſſed Rahmanieh, its progreſs on the banks of the river became leſs difficult. I ſhall not follow it to all the ſtations it occupied, but ſhall content myſelf with obſerving, that on the 19th of July it was encamped at Amm-el-Dinar, from whence it ſet out on the following morning, before day-break; and that, after a march of twelve hours, it reached the vicinity of Embabey, where the Mamelukes had collected their force, having an entrenched camp,

camp, ſurrounded by a clumſy moat, and defended by twenty-eight pieces of artillery. As ſoon as the enemy was diſcovered, the army formed; and when Bonaparte had given his final orders, he ſaid to the ſoldiers, pointing to the pyramid: "Puſh on, and "recollect that from the ſummit of thoſe "monuments forty centuries watch over "us." Deſaix, who commanded the advance-guard, proceeded to the other ſide of the village; Regnier followed to the left; and Generals Dugua, Vial, and Bon, alſo to the left, formed a half-circle by approaching the Nile. Murad-Bey, by whom we were reconnoitered, and who could not perceive any cavalry, threatened to cut us up like *gourds*; (this was his expreſſion). In conſequence of this determination on his ſide, the moſt conſiderable body of the Mamelukes, which was in front of Embabey,

moved,

moved, and charged Dugua's diviſion with ſo much impetuoſity, that he had ſcarcely time to draw up his men. They received the enemy with a diſcharge of muſketry, by which they were ſtopped; and, by a want of addreſs on their part, were on the point of falling on the bayonets of Deſaix's diviſion. A fire by files, well kept up, was productive of a ſecond ſurpriſe: the enemy heſitated for a moment, and then, endeavouring ſuddenly to turn the diviſion, paſſed between thoſe of Reynier and Deſaix, receiving the croſs fire of both. In this way the diſcomfiture of this body of Mamelukes commenced. Having no further project, a part of them returned to Embabey, while another part entrenched themſelves in a park planted with palm-trees, to the weſt of the two diviſions, from whence they were diſlodged by our riflemen. They now took

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the road of the deſert of the pyramids ; and it was afterwards by theſe Mamelukes that our paſſage into upper Egypt was diſputed. During this time, the other diviſions, on approaching the village, found themſelves expoſed to the fire of the guns in the entrenched camp, an attack on which was decided on. Two battalions were formed, drawn from the diviſions of Generals Bon and Menou, and commanded by Generals Rampon and Marmont, which were to proceed to the village, and turn the camp by the help of the moat. It appeared to the Mamelukes a matter of no great difficulty to ſurround and deſtroy Rampon's battalion, which was attacked by the whole of thoſe that remained in the camp. On this occaſion, the beſt directed, and moſt deſtructive fire was kept up by our troops : the Mamelukes, when they made a pretext of ſeeking our alliance afterwards,

terwards, told us, that they had no conception of our reſiſtance. In reality, the beſt cavalry in the eaſt, perhaps in the whole world, was routed at the bayonet's point by a ſmall body of infantry. Some of them had their clothes ſet on fire by our diſcharges of muſketry, and, having been mortally wounded, were burned in the front of our ranks. The defeat became general: they attempted to return to their camp, whither our ſoldiers followed them, and entered pell-mell with the enemy. Their guns fell into our hands; and our diviſions, on coming up, ſurrounded the village, and thus deprived them of that hope of retreat. In endeavouring to proceed along the banks of the Nile, a tranſverſe wall obſtructed their progreſs, and drove them back. They now threw themſelves into the river to join the army of Ibrahim-Bey, which was ſtationed

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on the oppoſite ſide, to cover Cairo. From that moment it was no longer a combat, but a maſſacre. The enemy appeared to defile for the purpoſe of being ſhot, and to eſcape from the fire of our battalions to become a prey to the waves. In the midſt of this carnage, the ſublime contraſt, which, on looking upwards, was afforded by the clear ſky of this fine climate, was very ſtriking. A handful of French, led by a hero, had juſt ſubdued a quarter of the globe: an empire had juſt changed its ruler; and the pride of the Mamelukes had been completely humbled by the bayonets of our infantry. During this great and terrible ſcene, the reſult of which was to become ſo important, the duſt and ſmoke ſcarcely obſcured the lower part of the atmoſphere. The morning ſtar, revolving over a ſpacious horizon, peaceably terminated its career—a ſublime

teſtimony of that immutable order of nature, which obeys the decrees of the Eternal in the calm ſtillneſs that renders it ſtill more awful.

General Menou had, in conſequence of his wounds, remained behind at Alexandria, from whence he was to proceed to Roſetta, to regulate the government, and afterwards to make an excurſion in the Delta. Prior to his ſetting out for Cairo, he had prevailed on me to accompany him on this excurſion, to which I conſented the more readily, from a perſuaſion that it would be more intereſting, if undertaken previouſly to my viſit to Upper Egypt. In addition to this conſideration, I was very glad to accompany an amiable and well-informed man, with whom I had been ſeveral years intimate.

We embarked on board an advice-boat, in the new harbour of Alexandria, and ſpent the

the whole of the day in endeavouring to work out. Our pilot, who was unacquainted with the currents, breakers, and ſhoals of this harbour, after having with ſome difficulty ſteered clear of Diamond-point, nearly ran us on the ledge of the ſmall ſand-bank, and brought us to anchor for the night off the mouth of the harbour. I made a drawing of the fortreſs (Fig. 1. Plate V.) conſtructed in the iſland of Pharos, on the ſite of that celebrated monument, equally uſeful and magnificent, of that wonder of the world, which, after having taken the name of the iſland on which it was placed, has tranſmitted that appellation to all the monuments of the ſame deſcription.

On our ſetting out the next morning, fate was equally unpropitious to us. Scarcely were we a few leagues out at ſea, when a gale of wind came on, in conſequence of

which General Menou was ſeized with a convulſive fit of vomiting, which occaſioned him to fall, his head ſtriking againſt the breech of a gun. He was inſenſible; and as we were not able to judge of the danger which might reſult from a large wound he had received, we had ſome notion of conveying him to the Orient, which was riding at anchor with the fleet off Aboukir, oppoſite to which place we were at the moment.

Our ſeamen being, however, of opinion, that in a few hours we might reach the Nile, we embraced this latter plan, as the one which would the ſooneſt terminate the general's ſufferings from ſea-ſickneſs. A few hours after, we found ourſelves, without knowing it, at one of the mouths of the Nile, which we recognized by the moſt dreadful picture I have ever ſeen. The water of the Nile, repelled by the wind, raiſed to an im-

menſe

menſe height the waves, which were perpetually forced back and broken, with a frightful noiſe, by the current of the river. One of our veſſels, which had juſt been driven on ſhore, and which the waves were daſhing in pieces, was the only mark which we had of the coaſt. Several other advice-boats were in the ſame ſituation with ourſelves, that is to ſay, in the ſame perplexity, approaching each other to hold a conſultation, then ſheering off to avoid falling on board and foundering, and unable to hold any intercourſe except by loud ſhouts. We were without a coaſting pilot, and were quite at a loſs what courſe to take. In the mean time the general grew worſe and worſe; and we reſolved to reconnoitre the bar of the river, for which purpoſe the boat was hoiſted out, and Bonnecarerre, a chief of battalion, and myſelf, jumped into it in

the beſt way we could. We had ſcarcely quitted our veſſel, when we found ourſelves in the midſt of an abyſs, without being able to diſtinguiſh any other object, except the curved tops of the waves, which threatened on every ſide to ſwallow us up. At the diſtance of a third of a league from the advice-boat, we made uſeleſs efforts to draw near to her; I began to feel the effects of ſea-ſickneſs, and we were obliged to make up our minds to paſs the night in the boat. I had juſt wrapped myſelf up in my cloak, to be no longer a witneſs of our deplorable ſituation, when we paſſed in the wake of a felucca, from the ſide of which I perceived a poor wretch, who had fallen overboard in endeavouring to get into a boat, hanging by a rope. Wearied with the efforts he made to ſupport himſelf in this perilous ſituation, and his ſtrength nearly exhauſted, he ſeemed

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on the point of letting go his hold, and of ſeeking a watery grave. This ſpectacle cauſed in me ſuch a revolution, that my ſea-ſickneſs went off. I bawled as loud as I could, and the ſeamen followed my example: our cries were at length heard by the people on board the felucca. At firſt they could not comprehend what was our drift, and ſearched every where before they came to the aid of this poor creature, who had no ſtrength left. At length they found him; and it was not too late to ſnatch him from deſtruction.

The time we had loſt on this occaſion, and the efforts we had made to keep to windward, in caſe our drowning man ſhould have fallen into the ſea, had placed us in a ſituation which enabled us to get on board our veſſel. We effected this without accident, and found her preciſely where we had left her, without thoſe on board knowing

what courſe to take. The wind was ſomewhat abated, but the ſea very high. When night came, the violence of the ſtorm was conſiderably diminiſhed.

The general being too ill to come to any determination for himſelf, we held another council, in which it was decided, that we ſhould put him into the boat in the beſt way we could, being of opinion that the veſſel which was aground, and the breakers, would be a ſufficient guide to us; and that, by ſteering between the two, we ſhould find our way into the Nile. Our plan ſucceeded: at the expiration of an hour we were in a line with the coaſt, and, turning ſuddenly to the right, glided along the tranquil bed of the ſmootheſt of all rivers. Half an hour afterwards we were in the midſt of a moſt refreſhing and verdant country: it was exactly quitting Tartarus to enter by the river

Lethe

Lethe into the Elyſian fields. This tranſition was the moſt ſenſibly felt by the general, who was already able to ſit up, and who gave us no other uneaſineſs than from the depth of his wound, which no one of us had had the courage to probe.

Shortly after we ſaw to our right a fort, and to our left a battery, which had been formerly conſtructed to defend the entrance of the Nile, but which were now a league within. As theſe fortifications were not built until after the invention of gunpowder, and are conſequently not more than three hundred years old, this circumſtance may ſerve to ſhow the progreſs the river has made in gaining ground at its entrance. The former of them, to the weſt of the river, is a ſquare fortreſs, flanked with thick towers at the angles, and having batteries, in which are guns twenty-five feet in length. The latter

latter is a moſque, in the front of which is a battery in a ruinous ſtate, provided with a ſingle gun of twenty-eight inches bore, the only uſe of which at preſent is to procure a ſafe delivery to the pregnant women who ſit aſtride on it.

An hour after, we deſcried, amidſt foreſts of date, banana, and ſycamore trees, Roſetta, ſituated on the banks of the Nile, which annually waſhes the walls of its houſes, without injuring them. I made a drawing of this place before we landed. (See Fig. 3. Plate V.)

Raſchid, which the Europeans have named Roſetta, or Roſſet, ſtands on the Bolbitine branch of the Nile, and near its mouth, at no great diſtance from the ruins of the ancient city of Bolbitinum, which muſt have been ſituated on an elbow of that river, where at preſent ſtands the convent of Abu-

Mandur,

Mandur, at half a league's diſtance from Roſetta. This opinion relative to the ſite of Bolbitinum, is ſupported by the heights which command the convent, and which muſt have been formed by earth thrown up by the river: as it is alſo by ſeveral columns, and other antiquities, which were found about twenty years ago, in repairing the convent.

Leo Africanus ſays, that Raſchid was built by a governor of Egypt, during the empire of the caliphs. He does not mention, however, the name of the caliph in whoſe reign it was built, nor the time of its foundation.

Roſetta contains nothing curious. Its ancient circumvallation implies, that it was once larger than it is at preſent. Its original compaſs is aſcertained by the ſand-banks by which it is covered from weſt to ſouth, and

which

which have been formed by the walls and towers that ſerve at this time as a nucleus to theſe accumulated heaps of ſand. The population of this city, as well as that of Alexandria, diminiſhes daily. Very few houſes are built, and thoſe which are put together are made entirely with the old bricks of the buildings, which, being left uninhabited, fall to ruins for want of repairs. The houſes, in general better conſtructed than thoſe of Alexandria, are notwithſtanding ſo ſlight, that were they not favoured by the climate, which deſtroys nothing, not one of them would long be left ſtanding at Roſetta. The ſtories, which project one over the other, at length nearly touch; and this renders the ſtreets very diſmal and obſcure. The houſes ſituated on the bank of the Nile are not ſubject to this inconvenience; the greater part of them belong to

 foreign

foreign merchants. It would be very eaſy to embelliſh this part of the city, for which purpoſe it would be ſimply neceſſary to build on the river's bank a quay, which ſhould be alternately lined and provided with flights of ſteps. Theſe houſes, independently of having the advantage of a view of the river, have alſo the delightful proſpect of the Delta, and an iſland of about a league in breadth, poſſeſſing all the beauties of a well cultivated garden.

This iſland became our property, and the ſpot of our daily promenades. We at length made it a park, in which we amuſed ourſelves with ſhooting; a pleaſure which was augmented by that of curioſity, ſince every bird we killed was of a kind with which we were unacquainted.

I remarked, that the inhabitants of the left bank of the Nile, that is to ſay, of the Delta,

Delta, were more ſociable and civilized than the others; the cauſe of which is, in my opinion, to be aſcribed to the enjoyment of a greater plenty, and to the abſence of the Bedouin Arabs, who, as they never croſs the river, leave them in a ſtate of tranquillity, to which thoſe on the other ſide are totally ſtrangers.

On inveſtigating the cauſes, we are almoſt invariably leſs diſpoſed to inveigh againſt the effects. Is it poſſible to urge as ſo many reproaches againſt the Arabs who cultivate the land, that they are ſullen, miſtruſtful, avaricious, improvident, and careleſs about the future, when it is conſidered that, independently of the exactions of the proprietor of the land which they till, and thoſe of the covetous bey, and of the Sheik and Mamelukes, a wandering enemy in arms watches unceaſingly the favourable opportunity to ſnatch

ſnatch from the induſtrious Arab, whatever ſuperfluities he may venture to diſplay? The money which he can hide, and which is a repreſentative of every enjoyment, is therefore all that he can truly conſider as belonging to him. Accordingly the art of burying it in the earth is his principal ſtudy; and even when he has accompliſhed this, he is not without his apprehenſions. By appearing before his maſters in rags and tatters, and with a ſtudied diſplay of wretchedneſs, he can alone hope to ſecure from the graſp of their avidity what he has hoarded together. It behoves him to inſpire pity; and not to commiſerate his lot would be to denounce him. Anxious to amaſs his dangerous wealth, and unhappy when in the poſſeſſion of it, his life is ſpent between the diſappointment which reſults from not having procured it, and the ſubſequent dread of ſeeing it ſnatched from him.

It is true that we had driven away the Mamelukes; but on our arrival, in want of all the neceſſaries of life, we found that, in expelling them, we had not ſupplied their place. And indeed, who but theſe Mamelukes could ſubjugate and reſtrain the Bedouin Arabs, however badly armed, and however incapable of reſiſtance, having no other ramparts than the ſhifting ſands, no other lines than the wide expanſe, and no other retreat than the immenſity of the deſerts? Had we endeavoured to bring them over to us by an offer of lands to cultivate, we know that in Europe the peaſant who becomes a huntſman forbears from that moment to cultivate the land. Now the Bedouin is a huntſman from his infancy, and habitually ſo. Sloth and independence are the baſes of his character; and to indulge the one, and protect the other, he is unceaſingly

ceafingly in an agitated ftate, allowing himfelf to be haraffed and tormented by want. We had therefore nothing to offer to the Bedouins which could be equivalent to the advantage of their plundering us;—a calculation which is invariably the bafis of all the treaties they enter into.

Envy, that torment from which the abode of want itfelf is not exempt, hovers alfo over the burning fands of the defert. The Bedouins, in waging war againft all the nations of the univerfe, confine their hatred and their envy to the Bedouins alone, who do not belong to their tribe. To them all wars are alike; and as foon as the tranquillity of Egypt is difturbed, either by an inteftine quarrel, or by a foreign enemy, they take the field. Without attaching themfelves to either party, they take advantage of the conteft to plunder both. When we

landed in Africa, they difperfed themfelves among our ranks, and carried off the ftragglers, in the fame way that they would have plundered the inhabitants of Alexandria, if they had ventured from withinfide their fortifications, to try the iffue of a battle. Wherever the booty is, there the enemy of the Bedouins is to be found. Never backward to treat, becaufe all the ftipulations made with them are accompanied by prefents, they are true to no other engagement than the one which neceffity impofes. They are, however, neither cruel nor vindictive. The French whom they have made prifoners, in defcribing the hardfhips they fuffered during their captivity, confidered them rather as the effect of the mode of living adopted by this nation, than as the refult of their barbarity. Several of our officers who had fallen into their hands have told me,

that

that the labour which was required of them was neither cruel nor exceſſive: they had to attend on the women, and to load and drive the aſſes and camels. It is true that it was neceſſary to encamp and decamp continually, for which purpoſe all the camp equipage was kept packed up, and in leſs than a quarter of an hour the cavalcade was in motion. This equipage conſiſted of a mill to grind the corn and coffee, of a round iron plate, on which to bake the flat cakes, of a large coffee-pot, a ſmall one, a few dried goat-ſkins to hold the water, a few ſacks of corn, and the tent cloth, in which all theſe articles were wrapped. A handful of roaſted corn, and a dozen of dates, were the cuſtomary ration on the marching days, accompanied by a ſmall allowance of water, which, on account of its ſcarcity, had been applied to every other purpoſe before it was em-

 ployed

ployed to allay the thirſt. Theſe officers, however, not having been galled by any ill treatment, harboured no reſentment againſt the Bedouins, whoſe captives they had been, and whoſe wretched condition they had done nothing more than ſhare.

The Bedouins, deſtitute of religious prejudices, and without any external form of worſhip, are friends to toleration. Among them a few revered cuſtoms ſupply the place of laws; and their principles bear the reſemblance of virtues which anſwer all the purpoſes of their partial aſſociations, and of their paternal government

I ſhall here cite a trait of their hoſpitality. A French officer had been ſeveral months priſoner to a chief of the Arabs, whoſe camp was ſurpriſed in the night by our cavalry, and who had barely time to eſcape, his tents, cattle, and proviſions, having fallen into

into our hands. On the following day, fugitive, ſolitary, and without any reſources, he drew from his pocket a cake, and, preſenting the half of it to his priſoner, ſaid to him: "I do not know when we ſhall have "any more food; but I ſhall not be accuſed "of having refuſed to ſhare my laſt morſel "with one whom I eſteem as my friend." Is it poſſible to hate ſuch a nation, however ferocious it may otherwiſe be? The ſobriety of the Bedouins, when contraſted with the artificial wants we have created, gives them an evident advantage over us; and I do not know how ſuch men can be eaſily ſubjugated, or brought over by perſuaſion. They will have the eternal reproach to urge againſt us, that we have reaped rich harveſts on the tombs of their anceſtors.

So long as we were not in poſſeſſion of Cairo, the inhabitants of the banks of the

Nile, confidering our exiftence in Egypt as very precarious, had made an apparent fubmiffion to our army on its paffing through their territory. Entertaining, however, no doubt but that our troops would be fpeedily annihilated by their invincible tyrants, they had dared, either with a view to obtain a pardon from the latter for having fubmitted to us, or to indulge their propenfity to plunder, to collect at the water-fide, and to fire on the barks which were either forwarded to the army, or were returning from the encampments. Several of thefe barks had been obliged to turn back, after having been expofed to difcharges of mufketry for a fpace of feveral leagues; and thefe attacks were more particularly made by the inhabitants of the villages of Metubis and Tfemi. A fmall armed veffel and a detachment of troops were fent againft them; and in this expedition

expedition I was engaged. Our inſtructions were of a pacific nature; and, after taking hoſtages, we accepted their ſubmiſſion.

A few days after, another bark having been diſpatched for Cairo, no information could be obtained relative to her crew. We learned at length from the inhabitants themſelves, that ſhe had been attacked on the other ſide of Fua; and that her people, the whole of whom had been wounded, had jumped into the water, and had been drifted on ſhore by the current. Having been made priſoners, they had been conducted to Salmie, and there ſhot. General Menou, thinking it neceſſary to make a great example, two hundred men were put on board a half xebec, and ſeveral barks; and we landed within half a league of Salmie. One of the detachments ſurrounded the village, while another marched along the banks of the

river; and a third, by which the circumvallation was to be completed, took up its ground two leagues below. We found the enemy mounted, and in battle array, in front of the village. They were beforehand with us in the attack, and came within the reach of our bayonets. Several of their leaders having been killed by our firſt diſcharge of muſketry, the reſt, finding themſelves ſurrounded, ſoon fled. The third diviſion, which was to have cut off their retreat, not being come up in time, the ſheik and his followers eſcaped. The village was delivered up to plunder during the remainder of the day; and when night came, was ſet fire to. So long as the darkneſs laſted, the flames, and the diſcharges of muſketry, gave notice to an extent of ſix leagues round, that the vengeance we had inflicted was terrible and complete.

We

We returned to Fua, where all the ſheiks of the province had been convened, and were aſſembled. They liſtened with reſpect and reſignation to the manifeſto, which was read to them, relative to the expedition, and to the baſes on which the new organization of Salmie was to be eſtabliſhed. An ancient ſheik was appointed in the room of the one whom the French had juſt diſpoſſeſſed and proſcribed; and he was ſent to collect the fugitive inhabitants of the village, and to bring in a deputation of them, which arrived three days after. The detachment by which the ancient ſheik had been eſcorted, was well received by the inhabitants; and the deputies told us, on their arrival, that they could recogniſe the paternal feelings of thoſe by whom their puniſhment had been inflicted. They could perceive very clearly that we meant them no harm, ſince we had put

put to death nine only of the offenders, and had burned but one quarter of the village. They confequently regarded us as conquerors who knew how to put bounds to our vengeance. They added, that the fire had been extinguifhed; that the houfe of the fugitive fheik had been deftroyed; and that they had prefented all the fowls and geefe they had to the foldiers, who had put a period to the remorfe by which they had been tormented for three weeks paft.

We eftablifhed an ordinary poft at Salmie, in concert with the neighbouring diftricts, and concluded our expedition by making a circuit through the country. In all the villages we came to, we met with a reception which went beyond the practice of the feudal fyftem. We were received by the principal perfonage of the country, who laid the inhabitants under contribution for

1 our

our maintenance. It was neceſſary to be acquainted with the abuſes before a remedy could be applied to them: independently of which, being ſeduced by the facility which chance had afforded us, of obſerving the cuſtoms of a country, in the morals of which we were about to effect a change, we for this time allowed things to remain as they were.

A houſe of public entertainment, which had almoſt invariably belonged to the Mameluke, heretofore the lord and maſter of the village, was furniſhed in a moment, according to the faſhion of the country, with mats, carpets, and cuſhions. A number of attendants, in the firſt place, brought in perfumed water, pipes, and coffee. Half an hour afterwards a carpet was ſpread, and on the outer part three or four different kinds of bread and cakes were laid in heaps, the

centre

centre being covered with ſmall diſhes of fruits, ſweetmeats, creams, &c. the greater part of them pretty good, and very highly perfumed. This was conſidered but as a ſlight repaſt, which was over in a few minutes. In the courſe, however, of two hours, the ſame carpet was covered afreſh with large loaves, immenſe diſhes of rice, either boiled in milk, or in a rich gravy ſoup; halves of ſheep badly roaſted, large quarters of veal, boiled heads of different animals, and fifty or ſixty other diſhes, all crowded together, conſiſting of highly-ſeaſoned ragouts, vegetables, jellies, ſweetmeats, and honey in the comb. There were neither chairs, plates, ſpoons, forks, drinking-glaſſes, nor napkins: each of the gueſts, ſquatted on the ground, took up the rice in his fingers, tore the meat in pieces with his nails, dipped the bread in the ragouts, and wiped his hands and lips

with

with a ſlice of bread. The water was ſerved in a pot; and he who did the honours of the table took the firſt draught. In the ſame way, he was the firſt to taſte the different diſhes, as well to prevent his gueſts from harbouring any ſuſpicions of him, as to ſhow them how ſtrong an intereſt he took in their ſafety, and how high a value he ſet on their perſons. The napkins were not brought until after dinner, when each of the gueſts waſhed his hands. He was then ſprinkled over with roſe-water; and the pipes and coffee produced.

When our repaſt was ended, our places were occupied by the natives of the ſecond claſs, who were very ſoon ſucceeded by others. From a motive of religion a poor beggar was admitted: next came the attendants; and, laſtly, all thoſe who choſe to partake, until nothing was left. If theſe

repaſts

repaſts cannot boaſt the convenience of ours, and the elegance by which the appetite is whetted, it is impoſſible not to be ſtruck by the abundance, by the frank hoſpitality they diſplay, and by the ſobriety of the gueſts, who, notwithſtanding there are ſo many diſhes, do not remain more than ten minutes at the table.

CHAPTER V.

The Britiſh Fleet deſcried, and naval Battle of Aboukir—Formation of Iſlands and Banks at the Mouth of the Nile—Falſe Reports ſent to Europe of the Situation of the Army, and natural Advantages of Egypt—March of a Caravan from Roſetta along the Coaſt—Wrecks of the Battle of Aboukir—Peninſula of Aboukir, and ſuppoſed Ruins of Canopus and Heraclea—Jackals—Return to Roſetta.

ON the morning of the firſt of Auguſt we were maſters of Egypt, Corfu, and Malta; and the ſecurity of theſe poſſeſſions, annexed to France, ſeemed in a great meaſure to depend on the thirteen ſhips of the line

line we had with us. The powerful English fleets which were cruiſing in the Mediterranean, could not be ſupplied with ſtores and proviſions without much difficulty and an enormous expenſe.

Bonaparte, who was ſenſible of all the advantages of ſuch a poſition, was deſirous to ſecure theſe advantages, by bringing our fleet into the harbour of Alexandria; and offered two thouſand ſequins to any one who ſhould accompliſh this. It is ſaid that ſeveral of the captains of merchantmen had ſounded, and found a paſſage for the fleet into the old harbour. The evil genius of France, however, counſelled and perſuaded the admiral to moor his ſhips in the bay of Aboukir, and thus to change in one day the reſult of a long train of ſucceſſes.

In the courſe of the afternoon chance led us to Abu-Mandur, the convent I have already

ready mentioned, and which terminates a pleaſant walk from Roſetta along the river ſide. (See Plate VI. Fig. 2.) When we had reached the tower which commands the monaſtery, we deſcried a fleet of twenty ſail.* To come up, to range themſelves in a line, and to attack, were the operations of a minute. The firſt ſhot was fired at five o'clock; and ſhortly after, our view of the movements of the two fleets was intercepted by the ſmoke. When night came on we could diſtinguiſh ſomewhat better, without, however, being able to give an account of what paſſed. The danger to which we were expoſed, of falling into the hands of the

* Throughout the whole of this narrative of the defeat of the French fleet in Aboukir-bay, it ſhould be recollected, that it is the production of a Frenchman, who either would not, or could not, ſee things preciſely as they were. There were fifteen ſail only, including the Mutine brig.—TRANSLATOR.

ſmalleſt troop of Bedouins which might come that way, did not draw our attention from an event by which we were ſo ſtrongly intereſted. Rolls of fire inceſſantly guſhing from the mouths of the cannon, evinced clearly that the combat was dreadful, and ſupported with an equal obſtinacy on both ſides. On our return to Roſetta we climbed on the roofs of the houſes, from whence, at ten o'clock, we perceived a ſtrong light, which indicated a fire. A few minutes after we heard a terrible exploſion, which was followed by a profound ſilence. As we had ſeen a firing kept up, from the left to the right, on the object in flames, we drew a concluſion that it was one of the enemy's ſhips which had been ſet fire to by our people; and we imputed the ſilence which enſued to the retreat of the Engliſh, who, as our ſhips were moored, were excluſively

in poſſeſſion of the range of the bay, and who, conſequently, could perſevere in, or diſcontinue the combat at pleaſure. At eleven o'clock a ſlow fire was kept up; and at midnight the action again became general: it continued until two in the morning. At day-break I was at the advanced poſts; and, ten minutes after, the fleets were once more engaged. At nine o'clock another ſhip blew up. At ten four ſhips, the only ones which were not diſabled, and which I could diſtinguiſh to be French, crowded their ſails, and quitted the field of battle, in the poſſeſſion of which they appeared to be, as they were neither attacked nor followed. Such was the phantom produced by the enthuſiaſm of hope.

I took my ſtation at the tower of Abu-Mandur, from whence I counted twenty-five veſſels, half of which were ſhattered

wrecks, and the others incapable of manœuvring to afford them aſſiſtance. For three days we remained in this ſtate of cruel uncertainty. By the help of my ſpying-glaſs I had made a drawing of this diſaſtrous ſcene, to be enabled the better to aſcertain whether the morrow would be productive of any change. (See Plate VI. Fig. 2.) In this way we cheriſhed illuſion, and ſpurned at all evidence, until at length, the paſſage acroſs the bar being cut off, and the communication with Alexandria intercepted, we found that our ſituation was altered, and that, ſeparated from the mother-country, we were become the inhabitants of a diſtant colony, where we ſhould be obliged to depend on our own reſources for ſubſiſtence until the peace. We learned, in ſhort, that the Engliſh fleet had ſurrounded our line, which was not moored ſufficiently near to the

the iſland to be protected by the batteries; and that the enemy, formed in a double line, had attacked our ſhips one after the other, and had by this manœuvre, which prevented them from acting in concert, rendered the one-half of the fleet witneſs of the deſtruction of the other half. We learned that it was the Orient which blew up at ten o'clock at night, and the Hercule the following morning; and that the captains of the ſhips of the line, the Guillaume Tell and Genereux, and of the frigates, la Diane and la Juſtice, perceiving that the reſt of the fleet had fallen into the enemy's hands, had taken advantage of a moment of laſſitude and inaction on the part of the Engliſh to effect their eſcape. We learned, laſtly, that the firſt of Auguſt had broken the unity of our forces; and that the deſtruction of our fleet, by which the luſtre of our glory was

 tarniſhed,

tarniſhed, had reſtored to the enemy the empire of the Mediterranean; an empire which had been wreſted from them by the matchleſs exploits of our armies, and which could only have been ſecured to us by the exiſtence of our ſhips of war.

Our poſition was entirely changed. In the poſſibility of being attacked, we were under the neceſſity of making preparations for our defence, for which purpoſe a general inſpection of our different poſitions was made, the entrance of the Nile fortified, and a battery erected on one of the iſlands.

During one of our reconnoitering parties we returned to the *boghaſs*, or bar of the Nile, which was at that time nearly at its greateſt height, and had an opportunity of ſeeing the efforts made by the weight of this river againſt the waves of the ſea, which, at this ſeaſon of the year, are impelled twelve

hours

hours daily by the north wind, in a direction oppofite to that of the courfe of the river. From this conflict of contending waters there refults a fand-bank, which, gradually augmenting, becomes an ifland, and divides the current of the river, forming two branches, each of which has its diftinct fhelf. The eddy of thefe fhelves throws on the beach a part of the fand which the current had fwept along, and by this heaping up of fand the two branches narrow by degrees, until one of them gaining an afcendency over the other, the weakeft of them is choked up, and the ifland becomes main land. The branch which remains foon forms another fand-bank, an ifland, two new branches, &c. &c. In this way, it appears to me, the moft natural explanation may be given of the ancient geography of the branches of the Nile, as well as of the voy-

age of Menelaus in Homer, and of the changes of the Delta, the ſite of which might in the firſt inſtance have been a gulf, then a ſandy beach, and, laſtly, a cultivated country, covered with ſuperb cities and abundant crops, and interſected by canals, which, the ſoil having been either drained or watered with ſkill, might have diſpenſed abundance over the whole of the ſurface of this new country. Afterwards, in the lapſe of time, and in conſequence of the calamities inſeparable from revolutions, ſome of the parts of this territory, thus gained from the ſea, may have been deſerted, while others may have become ſalt ſprings; and lakes may have been formed, next deſtroyed, and, finally, reproduced under a new modification of matter. Canals, choked up, may have changed their courſe, and have been loſt. If this be granted, why, in our uncertain re-

ſearches,

ſearches, do we enquire where the Bolbitine and Canopic branches of the Nile, the branch of Berenice, &c. &c. were ſituated?

The plants which are produced in the firſt place on the new land, are three or four kinds of ſea weeds, round which the ſand throws itſelf up in heaps. From its ſurface they ſpring up afreſh; and their ſubſequent decay furniſhes a manure which favours the vegetation of reeds. Theſe reeds give a greater elevation and a greater ſolidity to the ſoil. The date-tree now appears, and by its ſhade prevents the ſudden evaporation of the moiſture, and renders the ſoil fruitful and productive, as may be ſeen in the environs of the fortreſs of Raſchid, from whence, in the time of the Emperor Selim, the guns had a full command of the ſea, and which is now a league from the ſea-ſhore, ſurrounded by foreſts of palm-trees, beneath

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the ſhade of which other fruit-trees flouriſh, together with all the vegetables that are produced in the beſt cultivated gardens.

On this expedition I ſaw, at the mouth of the river, a number of pelicans and jerbos. On examining the fortreſs of Raſchid, I obſerved that it had been conſtructed of parts of old buildings; and that ſeveral of the ſtones of the embraſures were of the fine free-ſtone of Upper Egypt, and ſtill covered with hieroglyphics. On viſiting the ſubterraneous apartments, we came to magazines filled with old arms and armour, ſuch as croſs-bows, arrows, ſwords in the ſhape of thoſe uſed in the time of the cruſades, helmets, &c. In rummaging theſe magazines a great number of bats as large as pigeons flew out. They were ſhaped exactly like the wood-fauvette: we killed ſeveral of them.

After

After the loſs of our fleet, a part of the troops which were at Roſetta had been diſtributed in ſmall parties in the fortreſſes and batteries; and as it had been found neceſſary to keep up a communication between Alexandria and Roſetta, by the eſtabliſhment of caravans between theſe two places, by Aboukir and the deſert, and to employ a certain number of ſoldiers for the protection of theſe caravans againſt the Arabs, too few of them were left at Roſetta to do the garriſon duty, and to defend the place in the caſe of an attack. It was therefore decided to form a militia, to be made up of the travellers, ſpeculators, and, in ſhort, of all thoſe idle, wandering, and irreſolute men, who came up from Alexandria, or who were already returned from Cairo. Theſe *animals* of a doubtful deſcription, corrupted by the campaigns of Italy, having heard that in Egypt

the

the harveſts were the moſt abundant in the univerſe, had imagined that the fortunes of thoſe who ſhould be the firſt to take poſſeſſion of ſuch a country would be made to their hands. Others, of a debauched character, and whoſe minds had been faſcinated by the relations which Savary has given, had quitted Paris to ſeek new pleaſures at Cairo. Others, laſtly, had come out as ſpeculators, to ſupply the wants of the army, to watch the ſtate of the markets, and to procure and ſell at a high price whatever the colony might need. The beys had, however, carried off with them from Cairo all the money and rich moveable property; and the populace had pillaged the houſes of the more opulent inhabitants before we had obtained poſſeſſion of that city. Bonaparte conſidered the appointment of army-furniſhers as unneceſſary; and the fleet of merchantmen was

blocked

blocked up by the English. These combined circumstances threw a dark cloud over Egypt, to these travellers at least, who were surprised at finding themselves in a captive state, defeated in their projects, and obliged to concur towards the defence and organization of an establishment, the aim of which was no less than the consolidation of the fortune and glory of the nation at large. They accordingly, in letters destined for France, entered into the most melancholy details; and these letters, which were intercepted by the English, contributed to mislead them as to our real situation. From a persuasion that we were dying with hunger, they sent us back our prisoners, to hasten the moment of our destruction; and published in their newspapers that one-half of our army was at the hospital, while half the remainder was employed in leading the others who were blind.

blind. At this time, however, Upper Egypt ſupplied us abundantly with the beſt corn, and Lower Egypt with the fineſt rice. The ſugar made in the country coſts only half the price of the ſugar in France; and the innumerable herds of buffaloes, oxen, ſheep, and goats, both belonging to the cultivators and to the Arab ſhepherds, abundantly ſupplied a new conſumption at the time of our landing, ſecuring to us plenty, and even ſuperfluity for the future. To theſe reſources we could add, as ſo many luxuries for our tables, fowl, fiſh, game, vegetables, and fruits of every deſcription. Such were the objects of prime neceſſity and of luxury which Egypt afforded to theſe calumniators, who were in need of gold to repair the abuſe they had already made of it, and who, being unable to find any, could perceive nothing around them except burning ſands, a perpetual ſunſhine,

ſhine, gnats and fleas, dogs which prevented them from ſleeping, intractable huſbands, and women who diſplayed their haggard necks, while their faces were veiled.

Let us, however, abandon to the mercy of the winds this ſwarm of butterflies, which collect wherever a glimpſe of ſunſhine is to be caught; and, glancing into futurity, ſee our conqueſts and the peace lay open the ports of Alexandria, bringing thither ſkilful and induſtrious cultivators, uſeful merchants, and, in ſhort, ſettlers who, without terrifying themſelves becauſe Africa does not reſemble Europe, will find that in Egypt a man may for three halfpence have a ſufficient quantity of the beſt rice in the world for a day's conſumption: that a part of the grounds which the inundations have deſerted may be cultivated by means of irrigation: that wind-mills would raiſe the water to a

greater

greater height than the machines with pots, which are at preſent employed, and which require ſo much attendance and ſo many oxen: that the iſlands of the Nile, and the greater part of the Delta, have need alone of ſettlers from the Weſt Indies to produce the fineſt ſugar-canes on a territory which will not be deſtructive to the population: that on approaching Cairo, and on the other ſide of that city, a little amelioration will ſuffice to rival the plantations of indigo and cotton to be found elſewhere: and that, while they are making a ſure and handſome fortune, they will live under the benign influence of a pure and healthy climate, on the banks of a river of an almoſt miraculous deſcription, the advantages of which cannot be recapitulated. To conclude, they will ſee a new colony ſpring up, with cities ready built, and with ſkilful workmen, accuſtomed

to

to toils and inured to the climate, by whofe aid, and by the help of the canals which are already traced out, they will in a few years create new provinces, the future abundance of which cannot be doubted, fince it will depend on modern induftry alone to reftore to them their ancient fplendour.

With refpect to our heedlefs foldiers, they amufed themfelves at the expenfe of our feamen who had been beaten; and having heard that Murad-Bey had a white camel covered with gold and diamonds, their converfation was entirely engroffed by Murad-Bey and his white camel. For my part, I was to vifit Upper Egypt; and I laid afide all further reflections relative to our fituation until my return from thence.

Our excurfion in the Delta was retarded by fome preffing bufinefs which General Menou had to tranfact. I refolved to avail

 myfelf

myſelf of this delay, by returning and viſiting by land the part of Egypt, the coaſt only of which I had ſeen in coming from Alexandria by ſea; and for this purpoſe I joined a caravan to go in queſt of the ruins of Canopus.

A conſiderable number of the native inhabitants had joined the eſcort of the caravan: when, on quitting the city at the cloſe of the evening, it began to ſpread itſelf over the yellow and ſleek ſurface of the ſandy hillocks which ſurround Roſetta; it produced the moſt ſtriking and pictureſque effect imaginable. The groups of ſoldiers, thoſe of the merchants in their different coſtumes, ſixty laden camels, an equal number of Arab guides, the horſes, aſſes, foot travellers, and a few inſtruments of military muſic, gave the animated ſemblance of one of the fineſt pictures of Benedetto, or of Sal-

vator Roſa. As ſoon as we had deſcended the hillocks, and paſſed the palm-trees, we entered a vaſt deſert, the horizontal line of which is broken by a few ſmall brick monuments alone, intended to prevent the traveller from loſing himſelf in the wide expanſe, and without which the ſmalleſt error in the opening of the angle would bring him, by a lengthened line, into a direction very different from the one he meant to take. We proceeded, amid the ſilence of the deſert and of the night, over incruſtations of ſalt, which gave ſome ſmall degree of ſolidity to the moving ſands, our cavalcade being preceded by a detachment of ſoldiers. Next came the travellers, then the beaſts of burden, and, laſtly, another detachment to protect the convoy from the Bedouin Arabs, who, when they are not in ſufficient force to attack in front, ſometimes carry off the

 ſtragglers

ſtragglers within twenty paces of the rear of the caravan.

We reached the ſea-ſide at midnight, when the riſing moon lighted up a new ſcene. The ſhore, to the extent of four leagues, was covered by wrecks, which enabled us to form an eſtimate of the loſs we had ſuſtained at the battle of Aboukir. To procure a few nails, or a few iron hoops, the wandering Arabs were employed in burning on the beach the maſts, gun-carriages, boats, &c. which had been conſtructed at ſo vaſt an expenſe in our ports, and even the wrecks of which were a treaſure in a country where ſo few of theſe objects were to be found. The robbers fled at our approach; and nothing was left but the bodies of the wretched victims, drifted on the looſe ſand, by which they were half covered, and exhibiting there a ſpectacle as ſublime as terrific.

rific. The ſight of theſe diſtreſſing objects plunged my ſoul by degrees in a deep melancholy. I endeavoured to ſhun theſe terrifying ſpectres, but in vain: all thoſe that came acroſs me attracted my attention by their various attitudes, and made different impreſſions on my mind. But a few months before, young, replete with health, courage, and hope, they had, by a noble effort, torn themſelves from the embraces of their weeping mothers, ſiſters, and wives, and from the feeble ſtruggles of their tender infants. All thoſe by whom they were cheriſhed, ſaid I to myſelf, and who, yielding to their ardour, had allowed them to depart, are ſtill offering up prayers for their ſucceſs, and for their ſafe return: waiting with avidity the news of their triumphs, they are preparing feaſts for them, and counting the moments as they paſs, while the objects of their expectation

 lie

lie on a diſtant beech, parched up by a burning ſand, and having their ſkulls already bleached.......To whom does that mangled ſkeleton belong? Is it thine, intrepid Thevenard? Unwilling to ſuffer the amputation of thy fractured limbs, thou hadſt no other wiſh to gratify than the honour of dying at thy poſt. Thy impatient ardour would have been tired out by the delays of the operation: thou hadſt nothing more to expect from life; but thou mighteſt ſtill give a uſeful order, and waſt apprehenſive of being anticipated by death. Another ſpectre ſucceeds, having its arm raiſed over its head, which is ſunk into the ſand. Slain in the fight, remorſe ſeems to have ſurvived thy courageous end. Haſt thou any reproach to make againſt thyſelf? Thy mutilated limbs atteſt thy courage; and couldſt thou be more than brave? Is it owing to thy

miſtakes

miſtakes that the wrecks which the waves have thrown up are accumulated about thee? How great is my regret, that my ſoul, filled with emotion at quitting thy remains, can only beſtow on them unavailing pity. Who is this other, ſeated, and with his legs ſhot away? He appears, by his countenance, to arreſt for a moment the death to which he is already a prey! It is thou, unqueſtionably, courageous Dupetitoire! Receive the tribute of the enthuſiaſm with which thou haſt inſpired me. Thou haſt periſhed; but thy eyes, in cloſing, did not ſee thy colours ſtruck; and thy laſt word was an order given from the deck to pour a broadſide on the enemies of thy country. Adieu: thy aſhes are denied a tomb; but the tears of the hero by whom thou art regretted, are the unperiſhable trophy which will inſcribe thy name in the temple of remembrance. Who is this

in the tranquil attitude of a virtuous man, whoſe laſt action was dictated by wiſdom and by his duty? His view is ſtill directed towards the Engliſh fleet. Like Bayard, it was his wiſh to die with his face turned towards the enemy. His hand is ſtretched out towards a youthful corpſe, which is faſt haſtening to decay. I can diſtinguiſh, however, a lengthened neck, and outſtretched arms. It is thou, young hero, amiable Caſabianca? It can be no other. Death, inflexible death, has united thee to thy father, whom thou preferedſt before life. Senſible and reſpectable youth, time held out to thee a promiſe of future glory; but thy filial piety made choice of death: accept our tears, the reward of thy virtues.

The ſun had diſpelled the darkneſs, but had not diſſipated the gloomy complexion of my thoughts: the caravan, however, on ſtop-

ping,

ping, apprifed me that we were at the edge of the lake which feparates the plain of the defert from the peninfula, at the extremity of which Aboukir is built. This deep and extenfive lake is the ancient Canopic branch which the Nile has abandoned, and the banks of which have been forced back, and its bed enlarged, by the preffure of the fea, which has found a ready entrance. This encroachment on the lake, which is daily gaining ground, threatens to deftroy the ifthmus which attaches Aboukir to the main land, and over which the canal flows that conveys the water to Alexandria. The Arabian princes attempted to throw up a mound, which was never finifhed, or which, not having fufficient folidity, yielded to the efforts of the waves, impelled during a part of the year by the northerly winds. At prefent there are no other remains of this mound

than

than two piers, one on each bank. A topographical plan of this part of Egypt, which is little known, and which has been badly traced on all the charts, would ſupply the means of reaſoning with efficacy on the dangers which may reſult from the ſea's motion, and of applying the remedies requiſite to the ſecurity of the important canal which conveys the water of the Nile to Alexandria.

The difficulty of ferrying over the canal of Maadieh occaſioned this ſhort paſſage to occupy nearly as much time as the reſt of the route. On the oppoſite bank our people were employed in erecting a battery to protect this communication; which, without ſuch a precaution, would be expoſed to the enemy's attacks. We had ſcarcely croſſed the canal when we had a proof of this: an Engliſh brig and a cutter, which had come purpoſely to intercept us, fired at us ſeven

or

or eight balls. Our ſilence inducing them to think that we had nothing with which to reply to them, the Engliſh, a few hours after, detached from their fleet twelve boats, together with the two veſſels above-mentioned, which ſteered towards our works with crowded ſails. We imagined that they were about to attempt a landing: they came to anchor, however, near the battery, and when night drew on kept up a heavy fire on us. We waited for the moon's riſing; and as ſoon as her light had enabled us to aſcertain their poſition, anſwered them in a way which was apparently ſo advantageous, that on our fourth diſcharge they cut their cables, left their anchors behind them, and ſtood out to ſea.

After having croſſed the mouth of the lake, by following two ſmall openings ſkirted by ſandy hillocks, I at length reached the

ſuburb

ſuburb of Aboukir, which bears a great reſemblance to the city, from which it is ſeparated by a diſtance of about a hundred and fifty paces: the city and ſuburb, taken together, may conſiſt of from forty to fifty bad houſes in a ruinous ſtate, interſecting the peninſula, at the extremity of which the fortreſs ſtands. At a diſtance this fortreſs has a reſpectable appearance; the baſtions would, however, fall in on the third diſcharge of the culverins which are placed on the ramparts, and which are in a very neglected ſtate: one of them, a braſs piece, carries a fifty pound ball. It was found neceſſary to raze a part of the batteries, and to form with the rubbiſh a platform of ſufficient ſolidity to receive four of our thirty-ſix pounders. This precaution did not appear to me to be of any great utility, as the ſmall veſſels and launches which are ca-

pable

pable of carrying guns to batter the walls are prevented from approaching this promontory by the reefs and rocks which surround it. The enemy would not attempt a landing at this point; and should it even be carried into effect, the fortress could neither hold out, nor afford any security to troops, or to a magazine, unless lines were to be constructed in front to defend the approach. On the whole, it appeared to me that it would have been better to destroy the fortress, and fill up the cisterns, preventing thus the necessity of a garrison, of no utility during the absence of an enemy, and which could not fail to be blockaded, or forced to surrender, the moment a hostile landing should be effected.

I made a bird's-eye view of the peninsula. (See Fig. 1. Plate VI.)

In the embrasure of the outer gate of the fortress

fortreſs I found four large ſtones of dark green porphyry, and two long ſtones of the moſt compact ſtatuary granite. At the inner gate I found, together with four other ſtones, a fragment of doric entablature, having triglyphs of a large ſize and fine execution. Theſe fragments, and a few veſtiges of foundations at the point of the rock, are the only antiquities I could diſcover at Aboukir, the ſite of which can never have undergone any alteration, ſince the ſoil is a calcareous level which riſes above the bed of the ſea, and which is attached to the main land by an iſthmus too narrow to have allowed a conſiderable city to have been built there. There is, therefore, every reaſon to ſuppoſe that this was the fort or caſtle, facing the ſea, of Canopus, or of Heraclea, which Strabo places at or near this ſpot. Before I reached Aboukir, at half a league's diſtance, I had paſſed

in front of the ciſterns, the conſtruction of which had been praiſed to me. I returned thither, and could find nothing beſides three ſquare wells of Arabian ſtructure, ſurrounded by heights which certainly contain ruins, and on which a large quantity of fragments of earthen pots are heaped together, blended with the ſand of the deſert which the wind has carried thither. I ſuſpected that Arabic towers had been ſunk on this ſpot, or, perhaps, that it had been the ſite of a manufactory of pottery, or that theſe were the ruins of Heraclea. A few fragments of granite on the moſt elevated part of the ground induced me to prefer this latter opinion.

On the following day I proceeded with a detachment along the weſtern coaſt, examining all the ſinuoſities and the ſmalleſt eminences. In Lower Egypt the latter almoſt invariably contain antiquities, by the aggre-

aggregation of which they were originally formed. After a ſearch of three-quarters of an hour, I found at the bottom of the ſecond creek a ſmall pier formed of coloſſal fragments. I felt an inexpreſſible pleaſure on perceiving, in the firſt inſtance, a fragment of a hand, the firſt phalanx of which, fourteen inches in length, belonged to a ſtatue thirty-ſix feet in height. The granite, workmanſhip, and ſtyle of this fragment, left no doubt in my mind but that it belonged to the earlieſt period of the Egyptians. By the diſpoſition of this hand, as well as by ſeveral fragments in its vicinity, and by the mere habit of examining Egyptian ſtatues, the poſture of which is ſo little varied, it is eaſy to recognize in this fragment an Iſis holding a nilometer. It might readily be removed from the ſpot where it is placed; but this would greatly diminiſh its value:

value: near it are ſeveral fragments of architecture, the dimenſions of which evince that they once belonged to a capacious and handſome edifice of the doric order. Theſe ruins have for ſeveral centuries been waſhed by the waves, without having been disfigured; inſomuch that it would appear to be the lot of Egyptian monuments of every deſcription to reſiſt alike the ravages of time and of man. Nearer to the ſea-ſide, and ſurrounded by the fragments of this coloſſal ſtatue, is a ſtatue of a ſphinx, the head and fore legs of which are mutilated, as far as the petrified plants and ſmall ſhells with which they were encruſted would enable me to judge. Its ſtyle atteſts that it is the work of a Greek ſculptor. It is not of granite, but of a free-ſtone which reſembles white marble, and which has a tranſparency not to be met with in this ſubſtance out of

Egypt. Its height is thirteen or fourteen feet At ſome diſtance, amid fragments of entablatures ſimilar to thoſe I have already deſcribed, is another ſtatue of Iſis, ſufficiently well preſerved to allow its poſition and attitude when ſtanding to be aſcertained: its legs are broken, but the fragments are at its ſide. This ſtatue is of granite, and is ten feet in height. All theſe antique ſtatues and fragments appear to have been placed on this ſpot to form a pier, and to ſerve as a breaker for an edifice which has been ſince deſtroyed, and which, if an opinion can be formed from its foundations, muſt have been a ſea-bath, the plan of which is ſtill to be traced in the interſected rock. The part which is not covered by the ſea, has conduits for the water, conſtructed in brick, over which cement and pouzzolana have been laid.

At a diſtance of nearly half a mile from thence, proceeding inland, and approaching Alexandria, are ſeveral foundations conſtructed in brick, the plan of which cannot be perfectly made out, but which, from ſeveral fragments of buildings well executed, appear to have belonged to edifices of ſome importance. Near them are ſeveral corinthian capitals in marble, too much decayed to be meaſured, but which muſt have appertained to baſes of the ſame ſubſtance: the columns to which they belonged muſt have been twenty inches in diameter. Farther on are a great number of fragments of columns of roſe-coloured granite, fluted, and all of them of the ſame ſize, of the ſame ſubſtance, and wrought with the ſame care, being inconteſtably the ruins of a large and ſuperb temple of the doric order. From the accounts which Strabo has tranſmitted to us

relative to this part of Egypt, and from what I have juſt deſcribed, more particularly the latter fragments, I had not the ſmalleſt doubt but that theſe were the ruins of Canopus, and thoſe of its temple, built by the Greeks, the worſhip of which vied with that of Lampſacus :—of that miraculous temple in which old men recovered their youth, and the ſick their health. The bath I have juſt mentioned was perhaps one of the means the prieſts employed to work theſe wonders.

The ſoil has preſerved none of the luxurioufneſs of the ſite of ancient Canopus. A few hillocks of ſand and ruins in brick, large ſquare blocks of granite, without hieroglyphics, and without any determinate ſhape to atteſt to what kind of edifices and to what age they belonged; and, laſtly, a few ſmall vallies, as barren as the heights by which they are formed, are all that remains of a city,

city, once ſo delightful, the ſite of which has now a wild and diſmal aſpect. It is true that the canal of which Strabo ſpeaks, which extended from Alexandria to Eleuſina, and a branch of which reached and beſtowed a refreſhing coolneſs on Canopus, has ſo entirely diſappeared, that the traces of it cannot be diſtinguiſhed, nor the poſſibility of its exiſtence at preſent conceived. There are no longer any remains of water in its environs, unleſs in a few wells or ciſterns, which contain an inconſiderable quantity, and which are ſo narrow and dark, that neither their dimenſions nor depth can be meaſured. In ſhort, that city, the ſeat of voluptuous delights, to which the votaries of pleaſure reſorted, is now become a deſert, frequented by the jackals and the Bedouin Arabs. I did not encounter any of the latter; but I met with a jackal which I ſhould have taken for

a dog, if I had not had an opportunity to examine very minutely his pointed noſe, his erected ears, his length of tail ſweeping the ground, and his coat of fur like that of the fox, to whom he has a greater reſemblance than to the wolf, notwithſtanding the jackal is conſidered as the wolf of Africa. Not wiſhing to weary the patience of the eſcort by which I had been accompanied, I returned to Aboukir, where I found diſpatches for the commander in chief, which were about to be ſent ſent off by a detachment.

This opportunity of quitting ſo diſmal a ſpot gave me an inconceivable pleaſure. During the ſtay I had made there, I had never been able to baniſh from my mind that the fortreſs was a ſtate-priſon in which I was confined; and the adjacent rock, againſt which the waves inceſſantly daſhed with a frightful noiſe, the whiſtling of the winds,

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the whitenefs of the foil, which hurt the fight, every thing, in fhort, in this melancholy abode, afflicted and chilled my foul. On quitting it, I fancied that I had efcaped from a tyrant by whom I had been held captive.

The night was fo dark that we had to grope our way, at times wading through the fea, at others in the midft of thickets by which we were torn, and ftumbling every now and then among the wrecks which were fcattered on the beach. At three in the morning we reached Rofetta, where I repofed myfelf voluptuoufly, not on my bed, for I had not feen one fince my departure from France, but on a clean mat in a cool chamber.

CHAPTER VI.

Anniverſary Feaſt on the Birth of Mahomet—Muſic of the Egyptians—Various Races of People in Roſetta, Copts, Arabs, Turks, Greeks, Jews, Abyſſinians—Adgis, or Pilgrims from Mecca—Egyptian Women.

IT was the anniverſary of the birth of Mahomet; and we were ſurpriſed to find that no preparations were making to celebrate this feſtival, the moſt ſolemn in the Arabic hegira. Towards the cloſe of the evening General Menou ſent for the mufti, whoſe honours and emoluments had been benefited by our arrival. His anſwers being evaſive, the other magiſtrates, on their being queſtioned, ſaid that they had purpoſed to make the cuſtomary preparations; but as they were only able to act as inferiors in an affair

affair which was in the department of their colleague the mufti, they had been obliged to wait his orders on that head. The prieſt was thus unmaſked. Like a true courtier, he had daily aſked and obtained new favours. The opportunity, however, preſenting itſelf of inſtilling into the minds of the people, that we oppoſed what was one of the moſt ſolemn acts of their worſhip, he had ſeized it with avidity. His ſtratagem was rewarded in the eaſtern manner: notice was ſent to him that the feſtival ſhould commence without delay; and on his obſerving that there could not poſſibly be ſufficient time to make the neceſſary preparations, the general told him, that if it was too late to celebrate the feſtival, he ſhould be under the neceſſity of ſending him, the mufti, to priſon. This had the deſired effect: in a quarter of an hour the feſtival was proclaimed,

proclaimed, the city illuminated, and hymns of piety blended with thoſe of rejoicing and gratitude.

After ſupper we were invited to repair to the quarter of the firſt civil magiſtrate, in the front of whoſe houſe we found all the preparations for a Turkiſh feſtival. The ſtreet was the aſſembly-room, which was lengthened or contracted according to the number of gueſts. An alcove covered with carpeting was occupied by the diſtinguiſhed perſonages. Fires, combined with a number of ſmall lamps and large tapers, formed a whimſical illumination. On one ſide was a band of martial muſic, conſiſting of ſhort ſqueaking hautboys, ſmall kettle drums, and large Albaneſe drums. On the other were ſtationed violins and ſingers; and, in the middle, Greek dancers; and attendants provided with ſweetmeats, coffee, ſyrups, roſe-

water,

water, and pipes. In this way the feſtival was furniſhed.

As ſoon as we were ſeated the martial muſic commenced. A kind of leader of the band played alternately two different airs, which the other muſicians repeated in chorus. Whether it was owing to the calmneſs of the atmoſphere, or to a wiſh of introducing too many flouriſhes into it, it ſo happened that the ſecond meaſure was a true cacophony, a diſcordance of harſh ſounds, as diſagreeable to nice ears as it was enchanting to thoſe of the Arabs. I noticed particularly, that the leader of the band invariably took up each of the airs with all the importance and enthuſiaſm of an inſpired *improviſatore*, and that, when his nerves appeared to be no longer able to ſupport the energy of expreſſion he tried to beſtow on it, the chorus came to his aid with the ſame

unvaried

unvaried diſſonance. The violins, which were more tolerable, afterwards played an air, in the burden of which a ſmall portion of melody was overcome by ſuperfluous ornaments. The naſal twangs of an inſpired ſinger were ſuperadded to the faſtidious ſoftneſs of the ſemi-tones of the violins, which, conſtantly ſhunning the key note, fell into the ſecond of the key, and invariably terminated by the dieſis, or imperfect ſemi-tone immediately beneath the key-note, as in the Spaniſh ſeguidillas. This may be conſidered as a proof that the reſidence of the Arabs in Spain introduced into that kingdom this ſpecies of muſical compoſition. After this couplet, the violins took up the ſame ſtrain with new variations, which the ſinger diſguiſed by a ſharp movement, until he had entirely loſt ſight of the air, falling into the wild expreſſion of ſounds, without harmony,

and without principle. This was what, however, charmed his auditory ſtill more and more. The dance which followed was of the ſame deſcription with the ſinging: it was not the expreſſion of joy, or of gaiety, but of an extravagant pleaſure, which made haſty ſtrides towards laſciviouſneſs; and this was the more diſguſting, as the performers, all of them of the male ſex, preſented in the moſt indecent way ſcenes which love has reſerved for the two ſexes in the ſilence and myſtery of the night.

A variety of trifling circumſtances obtruded themſelves to delay our great excurſion, and to retard the object of my journey.

Being under the neceſſity of confining my obſervations to what was immediately about me, I remarked how eaſy it was to diſtinguiſh, in the variety of figures, the different races of the individuals who compoſe the popula-

population of Rofetta. It ftruck me that this city, a ftation of intermediate commerce, muft neceffarily have collected together perfons belonging to all the nations of Egypt, and have preferved them more apart and in a better characterized ftate than in a great city, fuch as Cairo, where the relaxation of morals muft have croffed them, and caufed them to degenerate. I accordingly fancied that I could diftinguifh in the Copts the ancient Egyptian ftock, a defcription of fwarthy Nubians, fuch as we fee them reprefented on old fculptures, with flat foreheads, eyes half clofed and raifed up at the angles high cheek-bones, a broad and flat nofe very fhort, a large flattened mouth placed at a confiderable diftance from the nofe, thick lips, little beard, a fhapelefs body, crooked legs without any expreffion in the contour, and long flat toes. Ignorance, drunkennefs,

cunning,

cunning, and fineſſe, are the moral qualities, by which theſe ancient poſſeſſors of Egypt are characterized. The firſt period of their degradation may be taken from their ſubjugation by Cambyſes, that jealous and wrathful conqueror, who governed by terror, changed the laws, perſecuted religious worſhip, mutilated what he could not deſtroy, and degraded his conqueſt the better to ſubmit it to his yoke. The ſecond period was the perſecution of Diocleſian, when Egypt had embraced the catholic perſuaſion: this perſecution, to which the Egyptians ſubmitted as faithful martyrs, prepared them very naturally for the ſubjugation of the Mahometans. Under the late government they were become the agents and brokers of the beys and kiaſchefs, whom they plundered daily. What they had thus obtained was, however, merely held *in truſt*, as they were made

made by a fine to reſtore in bulk what they had amaſſed in detail. It was on this account that the art they employed in concealing what they had acquired, was greater than the impudence they had diſplayed in its acquiſition.

After the Copts come the Arabs, the moſt numerous of the inhabitants of modern Egypt. Without poſſeſſing an influence proportioned to their numbers, they ſeem to be placed there to people the country, to cultivate the lands, to tend the flocks, or to be themſelves in the degraded ſtate of animals. They are, however, lively, and have a penetrating phyſiognomy. Their eyes, which are ſunk in and overarched, are replete with vivacity and character; all their proportions are angular; their beard is ſhort and hanging in filaments; their lips are thin and open, diſplaying fine teeth; their arms are fleſhy;

fleſhy; and in other reſpects they are more active than handſome, and more muſcular than well ſhaped. The characteriſtic traits I have juſt deſcribed are moſt common in the ſmall villages and ſolitary habitations, and more particularly among the inhabitants of the deſert. Three claſſes of theſe people, altogether different from each other, are, however, to be diſtinguiſhed. Firſt, the Arab ſhepherd, who ſeems to belong to the original ſtock, and who reſembles the deſcription I have juſt given. Next, the Bedouin Arab, on whom a more exalted independence, and the ſtate of warfare in which he lives, have beſtowed a character of ſavage ferocity, as may be ſeen in the portrait. (Fig. 1. Plate XLVIII.) The Arab from whom this portrait was taken was a chief of a tribe, whom I drew the moment after he was made priſoner, when he thought he was

about to loſe his head. Laſtly, the Arab cultivator, the moſt civilized, the moſt corrupted, the moſt degraded, in conſequence of the ſtate of bondage in which he is held, and the moſt varied in perſon and in character, as may be remarked in the heads of the ſheiks or chiefs of villages, in thoſe of the fellahs or peaſants, in thoſe of the boufackirs or beggars, and, finally, in thoſe of the artiſans, who conſtitute the moſt abject claſs. Theſe two claſſes of Bedouins and cultivators are ſprung from the preceding one, that of the Arab ſhepherds.

The beauties of the Turks are more dignified, and their ſhape more delicate. Their thick eyelids allow but little expreſſion to the eyes: the noſe is thick; the mouth and lips handſome; the beard long and buſhy; the complexion leſs ſwarthy; and the neck plump. In all their geſtures and motions of the

the body they are dull and heavy; and this ſolemnity of gait, which, notwithſtanding the nullity of their authority, inſpires a certain degree of awe, they miſtake for dignity. They poſſeſs a beauty which cannot be defined, or a reaſon given why it ſhould be conſidered as ſuch. This is not the caſe with the Greeks, who muſt be claſſed among the foreigners by whom ſocieties diſtinct from thoſe of the indigenous inhabitants are formed. The fine delineations of their form, their arch and penetrating eyes, and the delicacy and flexibility of their traits, bring to the remembrance all that the imagination has figured to itſelf relative to their anceſtors, and all that their monuments have tranſmitted to us to atteſt their elegance and their taſte. The degraded ſtate to which they have been reduced, through a dread which the ſuperiority of their intellectual fa-

culties ſtill inſpires, has rendered many of them wily knaves. Were they, however, left to themſelves, they would perhaps become in a little time what they formerly were, ſubtle and ambitious. Of all the nations on earth this is the one which longs the moſt ardently for a revolution, from whatever quarter it may come. On our taking poſſeſſion of Roſetta, at an entertainment which was given, a young Greek came up to me, kiſſed my ſhoulder, and, with his finger on his lips, without uttering a ſingle ſyllable, ſlipped privately into my hand a noſegay which he had brought me. This ſimple demonſtration completely unfolded all his ſenſations, and was expreſſive of his political ſituation, his fears, and his hopes.

Next come the Jews, who are in Egypt what they are every where;—hated, with-

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out being dreaded; deſpiſed and perſecuted inceſſantly, without ever being expelled; plundering conſtantly without being very rich; and rendering themſelves uſeful to all the world at the ſame time that their only incentive is ſelf-intereſt. I do not know whether it is owing to their being nearer to their own country that their phyſical character is better preſerved here than elſewhere: it ſtruck me, however, very forcibly. Thoſe among them who are ugly reſemble our Jews; while the handſome ones, and more particularly thoſe who are young, bear a ſtrong reſemblance, in point of character, to the head which painting has handed down to us of Jeſus Chriſt. This ſeems to prove that the portrait is traditional, and that it is not to be dated from the fourteenth century and the revival of the arts. See the head which I have drawn, (Fig. 3. Plate XLVIII.)

XLVIII.) it is that of a young Jeruſalem Jew, and may be adduced in ſupport of my obſervation. In the great cities of Egypt the Jews contend with the Copts for the places in the cuſtom houſes, ſtewardſhips of eſtates, and, in general, for whatever requires calculation, and ſupplies the means of amaſſing and concealing a fortune well or badly acquired.

The characteriſtic traits of another race of men, who are very numerous, are ſtrongly delineated. Theſe are the Barabras or people from the upper countries, inhabitants of Nubia, and of the frontiers of Abyſſinia. In theſe fervid climates nature has, in an economical mood, denied them every ſuperfluity. They have neither fleſh nor fat, but ſimply nerves, muſcles, and tendons, of greater elaſticity than vigour. They perform by activity and addreſs what others effect by ſtrength.

ſtrength. It would ſeem as if the barrenneſs of their ſoil had exhauſted the ſmall portion of ſubſtance which nature has beſtowed on them. Their ſkin is of a ſhining and jetty black, exactly ſimilar to that of antique bronzes. They have not the ſmalleſt reſemblance to the negroes of the weſtern parts of Africa. Their eyes are deep ſet and ſparkling, with the brows hanging over; the noſe pointed; the noſtrils large; the mouth wide; the lips of moderate dimenſions; and the hair and beard in ſmall quantity, and hanging in little locks. Being wrinkled betimes, and retaining their agility till the laſt, the only indication of old age among them is the whiteneſs of the beard, every part of the body remaining ſlender and muſcular as in their youth. Their phyſiognomy is cheerful; and they are lively and well diſpoſed. They are moſt commonly employed to guard

the magazines and timber yards. They are clad in a piece of white woollen cloth, gain but little, and fubfift on almoft nothing. They are very faithful to their mafters, to whom they are ftrongly attached.

During the pilgrimage of Mecca all the nations which are ranged under the denomination of Maugrabins, or weftern people, pafs through Egypt. This was the time for the return of the caravan. Bonaparte, who had made every effort in his power to enable it to reach Cairo without accident, had not, however, been able to prevent Ibrahim-Bey, on his flight into Syria, from reaching the defert before him, and from attacking the caravan, which he did at Belbeis, fharing the plunder with the Arabs, and with the emir Adgis, whofe duty it was to protect the treafures. All that the bey allowed to reach us were the mendicant devotees, who flocked

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to us in bands of two or three hundred, made up of all the nations of Africa, from Fez to Tripoli. They were ſo worn out by fatigue, that they all bore a reſemblance to each other, being as meagre as the countries through which they had paſſed are barren, and as much decayed as priſoners after a long confinement in a dungeon. It is the impulſion, the powerful force of opinion, which unqueſtionably renders man the ſtrongeſt of all animals. When the ſpace which theſe pilgrims had gone over is conſidered, together with all that they muſt have ſuffered on ſo immenſe and terrible a journey, no doubt can be entertained but that it required the excitement of a moral aim, which alone could enable them to brave ſo many and ſuch painful fatigues; and that the enthuſiaſm reſulting from a pious ſentiment, together with the conſideration which

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is beſtowed on the title of *adgi* or pilgrim, a title proudly borne by thoſe who undertake the journey to Mecca, are the levers which alone could move the indolence of the eaſtern nations, and urge them on to ſuch an undertaking. To theſe incentives, however, may be added the right which the *adgis* aſſume to themſelves, of relating during the remainder of their lives, to the other muſſulmans, on whoſe credulity they impoſe, all that they either have or have not ſeen. I may perhaps be accuſed of a ſmall ſhare of *adgiſm* in the travels I have undertaken, and of braving difficulties with a view of imparting to others a portion of my enthuſiaſm. My own curioſity, however, ſets my conſcience at reſt, being aware that my ſtyle is not over faſcinating, and that my drawings have nothing but their fidelity to boaſt.

Fourteen Mamelukes, who were without

doubt an encumbrance at the head-quarters, had been ſent to Roſetta. I examined them very attentively, without reflecting that they do not belong to any particular nation, but are compoſed of people of all countries. Accordingly, among the few I had an opportunity to ſee, I did not find one who had a phyſiognomy ſufficiently characterized to be worth the pains of drawing. Several of them were, however, natives of Mingrelia and Georgia; but, whether it was that nature had denied them their ſhare of the beauty ſhe has beſtowed on thoſe countries, or becauſe ſhe had been more laviſh in her gifts to the women, I waited until others ſhould preſent themſelves with more ſtriking features. I alſo deferred the pleaſure of drawing the Egyptian women, until we ſhould, by our influence over the manners of the eaſtern nations, remove the veil by which

which they are covered. But even ſuppoſing, which is ſcarcely to be preſumed, that the men ſhould make a ſacrifice to us of their prejudices on this ſcore, the coquetry of the old women, who are the moſt ſcrupulous on every point in which honour is concerned, would for a long time require, on the part of their youthful companions, the auſterity to which they were the victims in the early part of life. What I had an opportunity to notice is, that the young girls who are not yet marriageable, and relative to whom leſs ſtrictneſs is obſerved, bear a pretty general reſemblance to the forms of the Egyptian ſtatues of the goddeſs Iſis. The women of the lower claſſes, who take greater pains to conceal the noſe and mouth than any other part, diſcover from time to time, not attractions, but fine ſlender limbs, the ſhape of which diſplays more activity than

than grace. As ſoon as their breaſts have attained their full growth, they begin to fall, and their gravitation is ſuch, that it would be difficult to ſay how low ſome of them reach. The complexion of theſe women is neither black nor white, but a duſky brown. They dye of a black colour the eye-brows, eye-lids, and chin, but without producing any great effect. I have not, however, ſeen any women carry with more elegance a child, a vaſe, or a baſket of fruit; or walk with greater eaſe and ſecurity. Their long drapery would be by no means unbecoming, were it not that a veil, in the ſhape of a ſhip's pendant, caſts a gloom over the whole of their dreſs, ſo as to make it reſemble the diſmal coſtume of a nun of the order of pe-nitents.

One of the rich natives who was under ſome obligations to me, by way of teſtifying his

his gratitude, invited me to his houſe. On account of my advanced age, and of my being a foreigner, he thought that he might allow his wife to be of the breakfaſt party, and thus contribute more to my entertainment. As he was engaged in mercantile purſuits, he ſpoke a little Italian, and acted as interpreter between myſelf and the lady, whoſe beauty was accompanied by a ſoft tinge of melancholy. She was extremely fair, and her hands uncommonly delicate and handſome. On my admiring them, ſhe held them out to me. We had very little to ſay to each other; and to make up for this ſilence, I kiſſed her hands, which, as ſhe was perplexed to know what ſhe ſhould afterwards do to intereſt me, ſhe did not offer to withdraw. On my ſide, I dared not let them go, for fear ſhe ſhould imagine that I was tired of them. I am at a loſs to con-

jecture

jecture how this ſcene would have terminated, if refreſhments had not been brought to relieve us from our embarraſſment. They were handed to her, and ſhe preſented them to me in a very particular manner, and with ſome degree of grace. I fancied I could perceive that her negligent and penſive air was merely the affectation of a great lady, who perſuaded herſelf that, by aſſuming it, ſhe ſhould become ſuperior to all the magnificence by which ſhe was ſurrounded and covered. Before I left her, I ſketched haſtily the ſmall drawing of her, which is engraved in Plate XXXV. No. 2. The portrait, Fig. 1. of the ſame plate, is that of a female native married to a Franc. She ſpoke Italian, was handſome, of engaging manners, and fond of her huſband. He was not, however, ſo amiable but that ſhe could beſtow a part of her affection elſewhere; and the jealouſy

jealoufy which enfued on his fide was the occafion of perpetual ftrife. She was all fubmiffion, and never failed to renounce the object of his fufpicions. On the following day, however, there was a frefh complaint: fhe again wept and repented; and, notwithftanding, her hufband was never without fome motive for fcolding her. The houfe in which this couple lived was oppofite to mine; and as the ftreet was narrow, I became very naturally the lady's confident, and the witnefs of her chagrins. The plague broke out in the city; and my neighbour was fo very communicative, that fhe could not fail either to give or take it. Accordingly fhe caught it of her laft lover; beftowed it very faithfully on her hufband; and they all three died. I regretted her death: her fingular good-nature and ingenuoufnefs, in the midft of her irregularities,

and

and the ſincerity of the regret ſhe manifeſted, had intereſted me, and more particularly, becauſe, as a mere confident, I could have no diſpute with her either as a huſband or a lover. Fortunately for me, I was not at Roſetta at the time the plague made its ravages in that city.

CHAPTER VII.

The Author enters the Delta: Number of Villages and Populoufnefs—Defcription of the Almés or Female Dancers at Metubis—Defuk and other Villages—Encounter with the Arabs at Scha-abas-Amers—Return to Rofetta.

WE at length fet out for the Delta, on the excurfion to which I had fo long and fo eagerly looked forward, to tread a ground which had never been explored by any European, and, indeed, but imperfectly by any other perfons, the inhabitants excepted; for the Mamelukes had rarely penetrated to the centre of the Delta, in collecting the tributes, and regulating the *avanies* or fines. On the 10th of September, in the afternoon, the generals Menou and Mar-

mont,

mont, a dozen men of letters and artiſts, and myſelf, with a detachment of two hundred men as an eſcort, croſſed the Nile in boats. Although ſome pains had been taken to make every neceſſary proviſion, it was found, on our landing, that what was moſt eſſential had been forgotten. The horſes we were to mount had no qualities belonging to the Arabian breed, except their vices; and ſuch of the travellers as were bad horſemen, and whoſe only alternative was a horſe without a bridle, or an aſs without a pannel, heſitated whether they ſhould proceed, or renounce a journey they had ſo ardently deſired, and which they had begun with ſo much enthuſiaſm. By degrees, however, our arrangements were made, and we ſet forward. We paſſed through the villages of Madie, Elyeuſera, Abugueridi, Melahue, Abuſerat, Ralaici, Bereda, Ekbet, Eſtaone,

 Elbat

Elbat, Elſezri, Suffrano, Elnegars, and Madie-di-Berimbal; and reached Berimbal at night. I have given this unintereſting liſt of the different villages through which we paſſed, to convey an idea of the population of four leagues of territory, and of the abundance of a ſoil which nouriſhes ſo many inhabitants, and contains on its ſurface ſo many habitations. Excluſively of its own internal conſumption, it has to ſupply the wants of its titular poſſeſſor, who commonly reſides in the capital. At Madie-di-Berembal our camels fell into the canal; and it was midnight before we could collect them together. Our baggage and proviſions were drenched; all thoughts of our arrival had been given up; and, after having with ſome difficulty procured a ſupper, we repoſed ourſelves as well as we could at two o'clock in the morning. The following day, after

having

having dried our clothes, we ſet out, and reached Metubis at the expiration of two hours, meeting with as many villages as on the former occaſion.

General Menou had ſome enquiries to make, and an explanation to enter into with the ſheiks in the vicinity, relative to their paſt offences. It was therefore determined, that we ſhould not quit Metubis until the following day. This city, on a variety of accounts, preſented food for our curioſity. In the firſt place it is probable that it was built on the ruins of the ancient Metelis; and, in the next place, the well-known and tolerated licentiouſneſs of its manners had beſtowed on it the reputation which Canopus had precedently enjoyed. Our reſearches after antiquities were ineffectual: all the granite we could find was employed for grinding the corn, and appeared to have

been brought thither from ſome other ſpot to be applied to that uſe. We were told of ruins to the ſouth-eaſt, at the diſtance of a league and a half; but it was late, and a curioſity of another kind attracted our attention. We requeſted of the ſheiks a ſight of the *almés*, a deſcription of female dancers ſimilar to thoſe of India. Theſe chiefs, a part of whoſe revenues they probably conſtituted, made ſome difficulty in allowing them to be brought into our preſence. If polluted by the inſpection of infidels, their reputation might ſuffer, and they might perhaps even be obliged to forfeit their condition in life. The vileneſs of a chriſtian in the eyes of a muſſulman may be eſtimated from this anecdote, ſince the objects which are the moſt diſſolute and abandoned in this ſect, may notwithſtanding be profaned by the view of a European. The preſence,

however, of a general, together with that of two hundred ſoldiers, and ſome old offences for which the ſhieks had an atonement to make, ſoon removed every obſtacle. The *almés* arrived; and we could not perceive that they participated in the ſlighteſt degree in the political conſiderations and religious ſcruples of the ſheiks. They made ſome difficulty, however, and that with a tolerable ſhare of grace, in granting us what we ſhould have conſidered as the ſmalleſt of their favours, that of uncovering the eyes and the mouth. In a little time their forms were completely diſplayed through coloured gauze faſtened by a ſaſh, which they tightened from time to time negligently, and with an air of levity by no means diſagreeable, and ſomewhat *à la françaiſe*. They had brought with them two inſtruments, a pipe and

 tabour,

tabour, and a kind of drum, made from an earthen pot, on which the muſician beat with his hands. They were ſeven in number. Two of them began dancing, while the others ſung, with an accompaniment of caſtanets, in the ſhape of cymbals, and of the ſize of a crown piece. The movement they diſplayed in ſtriking them againſt each other gave infinite grace to their fingers and wriſts. At the commencement the dance was voluptuous: it ſoon after became laſcivious, and expreſſed, in the groſſeſt and moſt indecent way, the giddy tranſports of the paſſions. The diſguſt which this ſpectacle excited, was heightened by one of the muſicians of whom I have juſt ſpoken, and who, at the moment when the dancers gave the greateſt freedom to their wanton geſtures and emotions, with the ſtupid air of a clown

in

in a pantomime, interrupted by a loud burſt of laughter the ſcene of intoxication which was to cloſe the dance.

Theſe dancers ſwallowed large glaſſes of brandy as if it had been lemonade. Accordingly, notwithſtanding they were all young and handſome, they were haggard and jaded, with the exception of two of them, whoſe beauty bore ſo ſtriking a reſemblance to that of two of our Paris *belles*, that we all joined in a general exclamation when they diſcloſed their features. So truly is grace a pure gift of nature, that Joſephina and Hanka, who had received no other education than that which is beſtowed on the moſt infamous profeſſion in the moſt diſſolute of cities, when the dance was ended, poſſeſſed all the delicacy of manners of the women whom they reſembled, and the ſoft and endearing voluptuouſneſs which they, no doubt, reſerve

for thofe on whom they lavifh their fecret favours. I could have wifhed, I muft confefs, that Jofephina had not refembled the others in her ftyle of dancing.

Notwithftanding the licentious life of thefe females, they are introduced into the harems to inftruct the young perfons of their fex in all that may render them agreeable to their future hufbands. They give them leffons of dancing, finging, gracefulnefs, and, in general, of all voluptuous attainments. It is not furprifing, that with manners which make the principal duty of women to confift in beftowing pleafure, thofe who follow the profeffion of gallantry fhould be the teachers of the fair fex. They are admitted to the feftivals which the grandees give to thofe of their own rank; and when, from time to time, a hufband wifhes to entertain his harem in a particular manner, they are alfo fent

ſent for. This is what compoſes the ſubject of Plate 50.

On the following day our attention was occupied by antiquities. We went to Koam-êl-Hhamar, that is to ſay, the *red mountain*, a name derived, without doubt, from the mound of red bricks with which this ruin is formed. It has no determinate characteriſtics, and may have belonged either to an ancient city, of which there are no traces of any monuments, or to a modern village, which, having rebelled againſt the Mamelukes, may have been deſtroyed by them. We could not find any veſtiges of antiquities, notwithſtanding it was the wiſh of Dolomieu and myſelf to diſcover there the ancient Metelis, the capital of the *nome* which was ſo called. The country which we diſcovered towards the eaſt, beyond Comeh-Lachma, and extending to lake Berelos, is

merely

merely an uncultivated moraſs. We dined at Sindion and ſlept at Fua. On the following day we proceeded to El-Alavi and Therafa, quitting the road, and proceeding to the north weſt, to examine ſeveral conſiderable ruins, which are alſo, for the reaſon juſt given, called Koum-Hhamar-êl-Médynéh. We doubted whether they were the traces of Cabaza, the capital of the cabaſitic *nome*, or of Naucratis, which the Mileſians had built. We were not more fortunate than on the preceding day, the rubbiſh being of the ſame nature; for this is the only name which can be beſtowed on a maſs of ſhapeleſs fragments of pottery, and heaps of broken bricks, not one of which was to be found in an entire ſtate. At a diſtance from thence we diſcovered nearly two ſquare leagues of barren and uncultivated land, which, in ſome meaſure, diminiſhed our expectations relative to the

the general fecundity of the ſoil of the Delta. If either of the two cities I have juſt mentioned ſtood on this barren ground, on which we could diſtinguiſh ruins, it was but unpleaſantly ſituated, and it is certain that it contained no great monument of any deſcription. Notwithſtanding the ſpace that they occupy is very conſiderable, we could perceive nothing but a few artificial ſtreams for irrigation, without any navigable canals. We returned, but little ſatisfied with the reſult of our reſearches, not having collected any information which could aid us in thoſe we might undertake in the ſequel.

In making this excurſion we had quitted the detachment, and proceeded in a direct line towards Deſuk, the place of our rendezvous, accompanied by a few guides. We paſſed through Gabrith, a village fortified with walls and towers, peculiarities which diſtin-

diſtinguiſh thoſe that are not on the bank of the Nile beyond Fua. Here the territory was not ſo well cultivated, and the ſoil, being more elevated and more difficult to irrigate by means of the watering machines, waits for the inundation to be ſown with corn and maize, to which no other crops ſucceed. In the portions of land of this nature, as ſoon as the harveſt is got in, the ground, abandoned to the piercing rays of the ſun, and without one reviving drop of moiſture to allay its thirſt, cracks, and bears the form and ſemblance of a deſert. We paſſed through Salmie, where we could diſtinguiſh all the diſaſters which our vengeance had occaſioned, without being able to notice in the countenances of the inhabitants the traces of any enmity or reſentment they might bear us. I could not, however, recollect without emotion that I was almoſt alone on a ſpot

where

where I had ſeen the principal inhabitants of the country fall ſome time before. We were face to face, the natives and myſelf, like parties who had had a lawſuit, but whoſe accounts were not yet ſettled. I had had repeated occaſions to remark that the eaſtern nations bear no malice for the events of which a ſtate of warfare may have been productive. On this occaſion, the inhabitants added, with much generoſity and a good grace, a guide to the one who was to conduct us to Mehhâl-êl-Malek and the canal of Sſa'idy.

The canal of Sſa'idy is ſufficiently wide for the paſſage of boats from the Nile to lake Berelos. Deſuk, a large village, is diſtant from it about half a league, and has a moſque which is reſorted to twice a year by all the nations of the eaſt, and in which two hundred thouſand ſouls pay their devotions. The *almés* repair thither from every part of Egypt;

Egypt; and the greateſt miracle which is performed by Ibrâhym, who is ſo devoutly worſhipped at Deſuk, is to ſuſpend the jealouſy of the muſſulmans during the time this kind of feſtival laſts, and to allow the women the enjoyment of a liberty by which they are ſaid to profit in the fulleſt extent imaginable.

We were informed that a palace had been prepared for the general, and we all occupied it; it conſiſted of a court, an open gallery, and one room without a door. I made a ſketch of this ſcene, taking the time in which General Menou was giving audience through the window to ſome of the chief people of the country, who were aſſembled in the outer court, whilſt the ſervants were bringing in the breakfaſt which had been prepared for us. (See Plate V. Fig. 4.) We devoted the next day to viſiting all the vil-

lages

lages within the government of General Menou, in the province of Sharkieh, which we had not yet ſeen. In our way we were to paſs by Sanhur-el-Medin, where we were informed were to be ſeen a number of ruins. Could it be Sais? Our expectations were awakened by the adjunct *el Medin*, meaning "the Great," which it might have acquired from its great antiquity, or the ſplendour of the antient Sais, which, according to Strabo, was the metropolis of the whole of this diſtrict of Lower Egypt. We reached the place by croſſing a large and parched plain, which was every hour expecting the inundation of the Nile, the waters of which were already running up the numerous furrows.

Sanhur-el-Medin, however, exhibited nothing but devaſtation and a heap of ſhapeleſs ruins. The fragments of flint and granite ſtones which we examined could only indi-

cate a few centuries of antiquity, and our careful ſearch over the whole neighbourhood produced nothing of conſequence, ſo that we returned diſſatisfied to Deſuk, where we ſpent the night.

The next day we directed our march north-eaſt, towards the interior of the Delta. Having again paſſed Sanhur-el-Medin, we croſſed ſeveral main inundation canals, which from the appearance and quality of the water we ſuppoſed might proceed from lake Berelos.

Beyond theſe canals we found the country already covered with water, though it was four feet higher than the ground which we had left: for the irrigation, which was directed and kept in by the dykes on which we now marched, had to flow over them before it could reach the country through which we had been travelling. Theſe dykes

ſerved as roads of communication between the different villages, which appeared as iſlands riſing above the water; and being thus ſtrongly marked out, we flattered ourſelves that no intereſting object within them would eſcape our curioſity. We had been told that we ſhould find many antiquities at Schaabas-Ammers, and we advanced towards it along a narrow ſerpentine dyke, which divided two ſeas of inundation. To have more time for our obſervations, we had advanced a league beyond our detachment; a guide on horſeback, two guides on foot, a young man from Roſetta, the two generals Menou and Marmont, a phyſician who ſerved as our interpreter, a draughtſman, and myſelf, formed the foremoſt party of our company; while General Dolomieu, holding by the bridle a vicious horſe, and ſeveral ſervants, remained at ſome diſtance behind.

Whilſt we were obſerving the advantageous and pictureſque ſituation of Kafr-Schaabas, a hamlet a little diſtance from Schaabas, we ſaw the phyſician riding back to us at full gallop, crying out, "They are waiting for us with muſquets, and are crying to us, *Erga (Halt.)*" Our guides wiſhed to parley with them, but they only anſwered us by diſcharging their pieces, which, though they were very near us, fortunately did us no injury. We made another attempt to parley, but a ſecond volley warned us not to expoſe to the enemy's balls the legs of our horſes, which were our only reſource. As we were returning we perceived another troop of armed men, who were coming up by a road covered with water, and threatened to cut off our only retreat. At this moment the draughtſman was ſeized with ſuch a degree of terror as to be unable to think and act for

himſelf,

himſelf, and fell helpleſs from his horſe; in vain we tried to remount him, to take him behind one of us, or to perſuade him to ſeize hold of the tail of one of our horſes; his laſt hour was arrived, and without being able to make uſe of any chance of eſcape, he remained on the ſpot, crying out through terror, till his head became the prey of the merciless enemy. In the mean time, thoſe who had firſt fired at us were coming up, and to avoid being aimed at, we had only time to gallop through the balls, which flew round us on every ſide. We now met the ſecond party of the enemy, and Dolomieu was mounted on a reſtive horſe with his bridle broken; fortunately I had juſt time to tie it together for him, and I was directly after repaid for this ſervice; for as I was remounting, I ſaw him fall into a deep hole in which I ſhould have ſunk entirely, and from

which he efcaped by his gigantic ftature. I took another direction, croffed a dyke which the enemy had broken, whilft the ground was already covered with water, which came on in torrents in every direction, and at laft rejoined our detachment, and we all returned to Kafr-Ammers, which in our rage we were going to take by ftorm.

It was four in the afternoon when we returned to this village; forty men concealed in a ditch fired on us as we came up, but miffed us all, and we were not more fuccessful in returning the fire; they retired, however, to another troop which was waiting for us under the wall, for we now perceived that this village was a fmall fortrefs, formed of four curtains, with a tower at each angle, to one of which a caftle was connected. This little fort was feparated from Schaabas by a canal filled with water, and

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an esplanade of a thousand toises in length. The commander of the place had hung out the white flag, but the people in the suburbs still continued to fire on us: our first attack failed; the officer charged with directing it was thrown off his horse into the water, and his party had separated in order to pursue the inhabitants, who were carrying away their effects: the two generals hastened up to remedy this disorder and rally the party, but this movement obliged them to pass under the towers, by which several soldiers were killed or wounded from the fire of the enemy. We now turned the fortress, one of the towers had not been armed, and we broke open one of the gates of the town which it defended: thirty soldiers and the general entered; the latter and myself were the only persons of our party that were on horseback, and the houses were so low that we found

ourſelves a mark for all the three ſides of the place: at the inſtant that I warned General Menou that he was aimed at, his horſe was killed on the ſpot, and by his fall threw his rider into a hole; I thought him dead, and was in vain endeavouring to aſſiſt him, when General Marmont and ſome volunteers came to our aſſiſtance and withdrew him; the firing in the mean time, however, was briſkly kept up on all ſides; but the inhabitants were well armed, under ſhelter, and were able to take good aim. After ſeveral of our party were killed or wounded, we were obliged to retreat. We now renewed the attack with more order on the tower parallel to the former which we had carried; at firſt the enemy loſt ſeveral men and abandoned the place, and we began to ſet fire to the houſes in order to approach the fort, but eight of our men having been wounded at

the attack of the gate, our poſition became very hazardous, as we had left thirty men to guard our baggage and had but few with us. At the approach of night the beſieged raiſed loud cries, and ſhouts, which were anſwered by the neighbouring villages, who began to collect their forces, in order to relieve their countrymen, and we heard them concert meaſures to force a paſſage to them. We allowed them to come up, and when near we gave them a volley where we judged it would reach them, and directly after, their war ſhouts were changed into lamentations, and they retreated. Soon after a deputation arrived from the village of Schaabas, followed by the ſheik himſelf with his ſtandard: he told us that the people with whom we were engaging were villanous robbers, with whom there was no hope of treating; a native of the

the country whom we had ſet free at Malta ſerved as his interpreter; and the ſheik told us in confidence, that if we did not carry the fortreſs during the night, we ſhould not be ſtrong enough in the morning, and that the people in the neighbourhood would cut off our retreat, by which we ſhould all be killed. Whilſt he was giving us this important information, his fine face aſſumed ſuch an air of compaſſion, that I could not help ſketching his portrait. However, this advice was not to be neglected, eſpecially as we had ſeveral wounded men with us, whom we ſhould find much difficulty to convey along a narrow and broken cauſeway, whilſt we were covering our retreat. As we were meditating how we ſhould beſt ſecure our retreat from our critical ſituation, the beſieged, favoured by the darkneſs, pretended to

have

have received affiftance, and began a brifk fire on their flank, which they wanted to protect; and at the fame time abandoning all their property to the flames, they effected their retreat in profound filence. We only heard them when they were obliged to plunge into the water, and we then fired on them at random; and a few camels which had ftrayed from them, and were returning to the village, convinced us of their flight. Being now mafters of the field of battle, we completed the deftruction of every thing which would take fire; and our foldiers confoled themfelves for the fatigue of the day and night by loading two hundred affes with two or three thoufand fowls and pigeons, and by driving away feven or eight hundred fheep. To us amateurs, however, nothing remained which could make up to our curiofity

riofity for this dangerous and fatiguing adventure; our hopes of fuccefs had entirely failed, and we collected little if any thing worth record for the artift and antiquarian. At day-break we fet out on our return without meeting with any further obftacle.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER VIII.

Voyage from Rosetta up the Nile to Cairo—General Face of the Country—First View of the Pyramids—Cairo—Gardens of Murad-Bey—Journey to the Pyramids, and Description of them—Sphinx—Manners of the Inhabitants of Cairo—Affray in the Town, and general Rising of the Inhabitants—Quelled—The House of the Institute pillaged—Cemetery of the Mamelukes—Death of General Dupuis and Sulcowsky—Kindness of the middle Orders of People at Cairo.

ON our return to Rosettà we found an order from the commander in chief, directing the members of the Institute who had remained in that place to proceed to Cairo, to assist in organizing the proceedings and

and the ſittings of that aſſembly. I embarked the next day with my comrades. In quitting the province of Roſetta we left behind us the richeſt and moſt cheerful part of the Delta; for, in aſcending the river, after paſſing Rahmanieh, the ſands of the deſert ſometimes approach to the water's edge on the left bank; the country becomes naked, the trees thinly ſcattered, and the horizon is marked by an uniform line, which it is almoſt impoſſible to repreſent by the pencil. I took a drawing of Alcan, a village in which the aid-de-camp Julien, and twenty-five volunteers, had been maſſacred by the inhabitants. The village had ſince been burnt, and the people expelled; but innumerable flights of pigeons remained about the ruins, of which they were now the only inhabitants. I alſo took a view of the village of Demichelat, (ſee Plate VI. No. 3.) and the reader

reader may here remark, that the pyramidal form of the ancient Egyptian ſtyle of architecture, the regularity of the plan, and the ſimplicity of the capitals, are ſometimes preſerved even in the ſlight modern edifices, and give an air of hiſtorical gravity to the villages in Egypt which is not to be found elſewhere.

At more than ten leagues from Cairo we diſcovered the points of the pyramids piercing the horizon; ſoon after we ſaw Mount-Katam, and oppoſite to it, the chain of hills which ſeparates Egypt from Lybia, and forms a barrier to the banks of the Nile againſt the ſands of the deſert; but in this eternal conflict between this deſtructive ſcourge and the beneficent river, the inundation of ſand often overwhelms the country, changes its fertility to barrenneſs, drives the labourer from his houſe, whoſe walls it

covers

covers up, and leaves no other mark of vegetable life than the tops of a few palm-trees, which adds ftill more to the dreary afpect of deftruction.

I felt delighted in feeing thefe mountains, and vifiting monuments, of which both the date and object of conftruction are loft in the night of paft ages; my mind was full of emotion on contemplating thefe vaft fcenes, and I regretted the approach of the night, which fpread a veil over fo ftriking a picture to the imagination, and concealed from me the point of the Delta, where, among other magnificent plans, it was propofed to build a new metropolis for Egypt. At the firft dawn of day I again faluted with my eyes the pyramids, and took feveral views; and it was interefting to fee on the furface of the Nile, then at high flood, the different villages glide before the eyes, backed

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by theſe monuments, which were deſtined to record events that gave local intereſt to every object.

I wiſhed to be able to draw them with that fine tranſparent hue which they derive from the immenſe volume of air that ſurrounds them: this is a peculiarity belonging to theſe monuments, which they owe to their great elevation; for the vaſt diſtance at which they are diſtinguiſhable, renders them almoſt tranſparent, and the blue tint of the ſky cauſes their angles to appear ſharp and well defined, though they have been rounded by the decay of years. (See Plate VII: Fig. 1, 2, and 3.)

About nine o'clock the noiſe of cannon announced to us the approach to Cairo, and the feaſt of the new year, which was then celebrating. In our preſent poſition we ſaw numerous minarets ſurrounding Mount-Ka-

tam, and proceeding from the gardens on the banks of the Nile, whilſt Old Cairo, Bulac, and Roda, appearing as part of the town, gave it an appearance of verdure and freſhneſs, and added to its magnificence. As we approached, however, the illuſion vaniſhed; every object returning as it were to its proper place, we only ſaw a heap of villages collected near an arid rock; and, I know not why, remote from the beautiful banks of the river. (See Plate VII. No. 4).

When I arrived at head-quarters at Cairo, I learnt that the commander in chief was then ſetting out for the pyramids, accompanied by two hundred men, who were to protect them in their reſearches. I now lamented that I had not known of this expedition a few hours ſooner, as I conſidered it fruitleſs to ſet out on ſuch a journey, without being provided with what was requiſite,

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in order to obſerve theſe objects of curioſity with advantage; and beſides, I was ſo fatigued with my former journies, that I much wanted to reſt all my limbs, ſo that I had determined to delay this expedition till the aſtronomers ſhould go to make their obſervations in theſe celebrated places.

On leaving table, the general ſaid, "It is "impoſſible to viſit the pyramids without "an eſcort, and one cannot often ſpare for "the purpoſe a detachment of two hundred "men." The aſcendancy which ſome minds have over others, at once deſtroyed all my reaſoning; it was this aſcendancy which made me a follower from France to Egypt, and it now determined me to be of the party to the pyramids; ſo, without returning home, I took my road to Old Cairo, and rejoined the comrades with whom I had been ſailing up the Nile. It was full night when we got

to Gizeh, and I knew not where I ſhould repoſe; but in wandering about I found myſelf, by a good fortune which ſeemed like enchantment, in a hall furniſhed with fine velvet cuſhions, and ſcented with the perfume of an orange-grove, which gentle air wafted to us. I went down into the garden, which appeared by moonlight to be worthy the deſcription which Savary has given. This was the pleaſure-houſe of Murad-Bey. I had heard its charms depreciated, and I only now ſaw it after the march of a victorious army; but I could not help feeling that, without reſorting to needleſs compariſons, the oriental luxuries have their charms, and fill the ſenſes with voluptuous pleaſure. We do not here find, indeed, thoſe long alleys which are the pride of the French gardens, nor the ſerpentine walks of the Engliſh, where health and appetite are the

reward

reward of the exercife required to furvey them; but in the eaft, where indolent repofe forms one of the chief luxuries, the tents or kiofks are pitched under the thick branches of a clufter of fycamores, and open at pleafure upon a fragrant underwood of orange and jeffamine. To this is added the voluptuous pleafure of enjoyments ftill but imperfectly known to us, but which we may eafily conceive; fuch, for inftance, as to be attended by young flaves, who unite to elegance of form gentle and careffing manners; to be indolently ftretched on vaft and downy carpets, ftrewed with cufhions, in company with fome favourite beauty, breathing perfumes, and intoxicated with defires; to receive fherbet from the hands of a young damfel, whofe languifhing eyes exprefs the contentment of willing obedience, and not the conftraint of fervitude. Surrounded with

theſe delights, the burning African need not envy the inhabitant of Europe; and man may find happineſs wherever there is beauty and grace, whether in the gardens of Trianon, or repoſed on the banks of the Nile.

The officer who commanded the eſcort happened to be one of my friends; he entered me in the liſt of thoſe who were bound for the pyramids; we were about three hundred. The next morning, after much waiting to collect the party, we ſet out, late, as generally happens where many are to be put in motion. We ſailed through the fields by the inundation trenches, and after tacking often through the cultivated country, we landed about noon on the borders of the deſert, half a league from the pyramids. I took ſeveral views of them in different poſitions as we approached. (See Plate VII. Fig. 2, and VIII. Fig. 1.)

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Fig. 1.

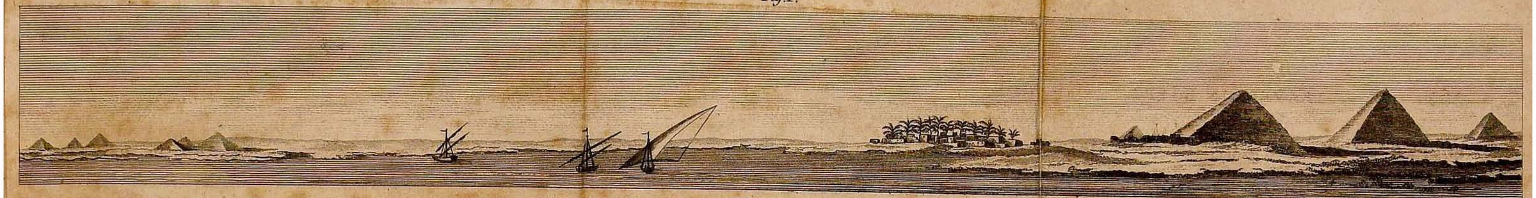


Fig. 2.

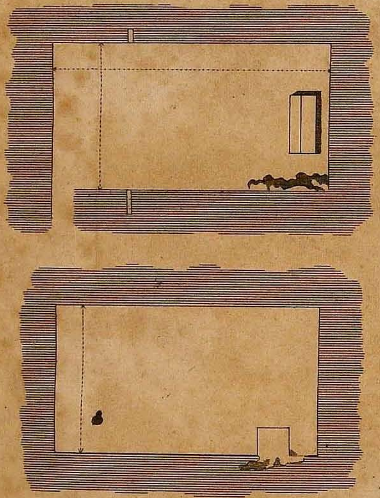
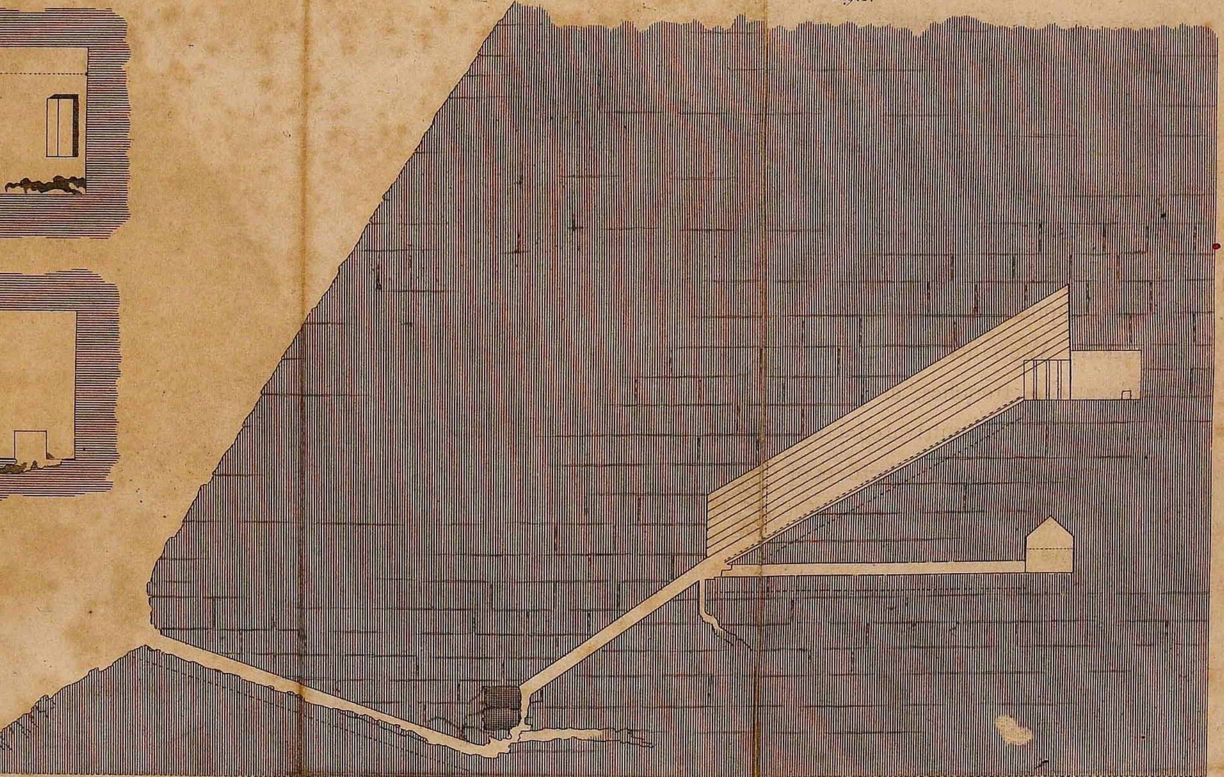


Fig. 2.



Engraved by S. I. Neele 352, Strand.

As ſoon as we quitted our boats we found ourſelves in the ſands, and climbed the level on which theſe monuments reſt. In approaching theſe ſtupendous buildings, their ſloping and angular forms diſguiſe their real height, and leſſen it to the eye; and beſides, as every thing regular is only great or ſmall by compariſon, and as theſe maſſes of ſtone eclipſe in magnitude every ſurrounding object, and yet are much inferior to a mountain (the only thing with which our imagination can compare them) one is ſurprized to find the firſt impreſſion given by viewing them at a diſtance, ſo much diminiſhed on a nearer approach. However, on attempting to meaſure any one of theſe gigantic works of art by ſome known ſcale, it reſumes its immenſity to the mind; for as I approached to the opening, a hundred perſons who were ſtanding under it appeared ſo ſmall, that I

could hardly take them for men. It would be a good method for the artiſt to give an idea of the dimenſion of theſe edifices, by repreſenting on the ſame ground-plan as the building ſome proceſſion or religious ceremony analogous to the antient cuſtoms. As it is, theſe monuments ſtanding alone, and without any living ſcale of compariſon, excepting a few detached figures in front, loſe both the effect of their grand proportions, and the general impreſſion which they would otherwiſe make. We have a good example of compariſon in Europe in St. Peter's church at Rome, the magnitude of which is concealed by the exquiſite harmony of proportion, and the croſſing of the general outline, till the eye deſcends to a proceſſion of the religious orders celebrating maſs, and followed by a train of worſhippers, which in this ſituation appears like a group of

of puppets attempting to act Athalia on the theatre of Verſailles. Another point of reſemblance between theſe two edifices is, that nothing but the deſpotiſm of a ſacerdotal government could venture to undertake them, nor any thing but the ſtupid fanaticiſm of a people would ſubmit to the labour of building. But to return to the actual ſtate of the pyramids; let us firſt aſcend a ſmall heap of ſand and rubbiſh, which is perhaps the remains of the trench of the firſt of theſe edifices which preſents itſelf, and which now leads to the opening through which it may be reached. This opening, which is nearly ſixty feet from the baſe, is concealed by a general ſtone-facing, which forms the third or inner incloſure to the ſolitary entrenchment around this monument (See Plate VIII. and X.) Here begins the firſt gallery; its direction lies towards the centre and baſe

of

of the edifice; but the rubbiſh, which has been but ill cleared out, or which, owing to the natural ſlope, has fallen back again into the gallery, added to the ſand daily drifted in by the north wind, and which is never forced out again, has ſo blocked up the paſſage as to render it very inconvenient to croſs. At the extremity of this gallery two large blocks of granite are met with, which form a ſecond partition to this myſterious paſſage.

This obſtacle appears to have perplexed all thoſe who have undertaken the reſearch, and has led to ſeveral random attempts to ſurmount it. Endeavours have been made by former viſitors to cut a paſſage through the ſolid ſtone, but this proving unſucceſsful, they have returned ſome way, have paſſed round two blocks of ſtone, climbed over them, and thus diſcovered a ſecond gallery of

of ſo ſteep an aſcent, that it has been neceſſary to hew ſteps in the ground in order to mount it. This gallery leads to a kind of landing-place, in which is a hole uſually called "the well," which is the opening to a horizontal gallery leading to a chamber known by the name of "the queen's chamber," without ornament, cornice, or any inſcription whatever.

Returning to the landing-place, a perpendicular opening leads to the grand gallery, which terminates in a ſecond landing-place, on which is the third and laſt partition, conſtructed with much more art, and which gives a ſtriking idea of the importance which the Egyptians attached to the inviolability of their places of ſepulture.

Laſtly comes the royal chamber, containing the ſarcophagus, (See Plate VIII.) a narrow ſanctuary, which is the ſole end and

object

object of an edifice ſo ſtupendous, ſo coloſſal, in compariſon of all the other works of man.

In reflecting on the object of the conſtruction of the pyramids, the gigantic pride which gave them birth appears more enormous even than their actual dimenſions; and one hardly knows which is the moſt aſtoniſhing, the madneſs of tyrannical oppreſſion, which dared to order the undertaking, or the ſtupid ſervility of obedience in the people who ſubmitted to the labour. In ſhort, the moſt favourable view, for the honour of human nature, in which theſe monuments can be conſidered is, that man was thereby ambitious of rivalling nature in immenſity and eternity, and not without ſucceſs, ſince the mountains contiguous to theſe edifices are leſs high, and ſtill leſs exempted from the ravages of time than this work of human hands.

We

We had only two hours to devote to the pyramids, and I had employed an hour and a half in viſiting the interior of the only one which was open: I had ſtretched all my attention to retain what I had ſeen; I had taken drawings and meaſurements as well as I was able with a ſingle foot ruler; in ſhort, I had filled my head, and I hoped to bring away many obſervations worthy of remark; but on recalling them to memory the next morning, I found I had a volume of queries ſtill to make. I returned from my journey haraſſed and agitated, and found my curioſity more ſtimulated than ſatisfied by my viſit to the pyramids.

I had only time to view the ſphinx, which deſerves to be drawn with a more ſcrupulous attention than has ever yet been beſtowed upon it. Though its proportions are coloſſal, the outline is pure and graceful; the expreſ-

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ſion of the head is mild, gracious, and tranquil; the character is African; but the mouth, the lips of which are thick, has a ſoftneſs and delicacy of execution truly admirable; it ſeems real life and fleſh. Art muſt have been at a high pitch when this monument was executed; for, if the head wants what is called *ſtyle*, that is to ſay, the ſtraight and bold lines which give expreſſion to the figures under which the Greeks have deſignated their deities, yet ſufficient juſtice has been rendered to the fine ſimplicity and character of nature which is diſplayed in this figure. (See Plate IX.)

I had juſt ſnatched a glance of the tombs, of ſmall temples, decorated with baſs-reliefs and ſtatues, of niches in the rock, which might have broken the maſſiveneſs of the pyramids, and given them elegance; but ſo many objects worthy of inveſtigation remained,

mained, that it would have required many ſuch viſits as the preſent to have undertaken even a ſketch of them, much more to have endeavoured to remove the myſterious cloud which for ages has hung over theſe ſymbolical monuments. Almoſt the ſame uncertainty exiſts as to the time in which they were firſt violated, as even that of their conſtruction; the latter, which is loſt in the night of ages, gives an immenſe period to the annals of art; and in this view we cannot too much admire the accuracy of the pyramidal ſtructure, the permanency ſecured by their form and conſtruction, and by ſuch immenſe proportions, that theſe gigantic monuments may be conſidered as the laſt link in the chain of the coloſſi of art and nature.

Herodotus relates, that he was informed that the great pyramid, of which I have juſt

been ſpeaking, was the tomb of Cheops; that the adjoining pyramid was that of his brother Cephrenes, who ſucceeded him; that only the former had any inner galleries; that a hundred thouſand men had been employed twenty years in building it; that the immenſe labour which it required had rendered this prince odious to his people; and that, notwithſtanding the taxes which were levied on his ſubjects, the expence for the ſubſiſtence of the workmen alone was ſo enormous, that the prince was obliged to proſtitute his daughter to finiſh this monument; and that the receipts of this proſtitution were ſo great as to enable the princeſs, beſides, to build the ſmall pyramid adjoining, which ſerved for her own tomb. We may add, that Cheops, having ſhut up the temples during his reign, found after his death no panegyriſt among the prieſts, who

were

were the hiſtorians of Egypt, and who related many idle fables to Herodotus, the firſt hiſtorian who has given us any light on this country.

I had reſided nearly a month at Cairo, and I ſtill had to ſeek for "the ſuperb "town, the holy city, the delight of the "imagination, greateſt among the great, "whoſe ſplendour and opulence made the "prophet ſmile," for thus the eaſtern people deſcribe it. I did indeed ſee a numerous population, and a vaſt extent of buildings, but not a ſingle handſome ſtreet, nor one fine monument. The only large place was Lelbequier, the reſidence of Bonaparte; and this too has the air of a field, but during the inundation it pleaſes by its agreeable coolneſs, and by the night excurſions which are there made in boats that have a ſtriking effect. (See Plate XXXIX.) The palaces of this

town are all ſurrounded by walls, which render the ſtreets gloomy, inſtead of enlivening them; and the habitations of the poor, which are ſtill more neglected here than in other parts of the country, add to the afflicting view of extreme poverty, though the climate allows of much careleſſneſs in the article of ſhelter, ſo that one is tempted to aſk where were the houſes inhabited by twenty-four ſovereigns. However, within theſe fortified palaces, ſome convenience and luxury is to be found; they are adorned with handſome marble baths, and voluptuous vapour-ſtoves, with moſaic ſaloons, in the middle of which are baſons and fountains of water, large divans compoſed of tufted carpets, raiſed beds covered with rich ſtuffs, and ſurrounded with magnificent cuſhions, which generally fill three ſides of each room. The windows, however, when

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there are any, never open, and the day-light which they admit is darkened by coloured glaſſes, and very cloſe lattice-work, for the light principally comes in through a dome in the center of the ceiling. The Muſſulmans, who make but little uſe of the light, take very little pains to procure it in their houſes, and in general all their cuſtoms ſeem to invite to repoſe; their divans, where the recumbent poſture is more eaſy than to ſit up, and from which it requires a ſerious effort, to a Turk, to riſe; their dreſs, which is a kind of cloſe petticoat that confines the legs; their large gloves, which ſtretch nearly eight inches over the fingers' ends; their turban, which prevents the head from ſtooping; their cuſtom of always holding a pipe in their hands, and intoxicating themſelves with its ſmoke;—all theſe circumſtances conſpire to deſtroy activity and imagination,

ſo that they meditate without an object, paſs every day in the ſame taſteleſs manner, and even their whole exiſtence without ſeeking for any new object to relieve its dull monotony. Even that claſs of ſociety who are obliged to work for their livelihood, are not much different from the higher orders that I have juſt deſcribed; they have been long taught to expect no other reward from induſtry than a bare ſubſiſtence, and thus they have no motive to depart from their ordinary routine, and to exerciſe their invention. They even diſlike particularly every occupation which keeps them ſtanding; the joiner, blackſmith, carpenter, farrier, all work ſitting, even the maſon raiſes a minaret without ſtanding to his work: like ſavage nations, they do every thing almoſt with a ſingle tool, ſo that one is ſurpriſed at the dexterity with which they manage it, and

ſhould

ſhould almoſt be tempted to allow them inventive ingenuity, if their invariable method of proceeding did not rather lead one to attribute it almoſt to a kind of inſtinct; like the inſect whoſe workmanſhip we admire, whilſt we know that it has not the power of applying the ſame ſkill to different purpoſes. It is, however, to a deſpotiſm which always commands, and never rewards, that we muſt look for the ſource and permanent cauſe of this ſtagnation of induſtry. I have ſince ſeen, in Upper Egypt, Arabian artiſans, when not under the reſtraint of their maſters, coming to offer their ſervices to the workmen among our ſoldiers, aſſiſting them in their operations, and, ſure of wages adequate to their induſtry, endeavouring aſſiduouſly to give us ſatisfaction by patient and active ſervices. I have alſo obſerved them examine with delight the play of the wind-

mill, and watch with tranſport the ſtroke of the pile-driver: perhaps, indeed, their innate indolence is a ſecret cauſe of their great admiration of theſe two machines, which aſſiſt ſo much in performing the great objects of their moſt neceſſary labour, that of raiſing water and building dykes to keep it in.

The inhabitants of this country build as little as poſſible, and repair ſtill leſs. If a wall threatens to come down, they prop it up; if notwithſtanding it falls in, it only makes the fewer rooms in the houſe, and they quietly range their carpets by the ſide of the ruins; if at laſt the houſe falls altogether, they either abandon the ſpot, or if they are obliged to clear it out, they carry away the rubbiſh to as little a diſtance as poſſible, which is the cauſe that in almoſt every town of Egypt, and eſpecially in Cairo, the eye of the

the traveller is conſtantly arreſted by heaps or rather mountains of rubbiſh ſcattered about, the cauſe of which he is at a loſs to diſcover.

There are ſome conſiderable edifices at Cairo, which I think ſhould be attributed to the times of the caliphs; ſuch as the palace of Joſeph, the well of Joſeph, the granaries of Joſeph, all of which have been ſpoken of by various travellers, and by ſome the popular tradition has been retained of theſe monuments owing their origin to the prudent foreſight of Joſeph, the ſlave of Potiphar. Were this the caſe, Cairo ſhould be as ancient as Memphis, and the remains of other towns ſhould be found near this city, ſince theſe palaces are all built of ruins more ancient than the edifices themſelves. Beſides, theſe ſtructures all bear the general marks of the muſſulman architecture of theſe re-

gions; that is to ſay, they preſent an aſſemblage of magnificence, miſery, and ignorance, as theſe half-barbarians have taken for the conſtruction of their vaſt buildings the materials which were the neareſt to their reach, and uſed them as they came to their hands.

The aqueduct which brings water from old Cairo to the caſtle, by a route of a hundred and ſixty fathoms, would be a work of art worth celebrating, if in its courſe it was not rendered faulty by many imperfections.

The caſtle, which is built without plan, or any real ſtrength or defence, has, however, ſome parts which are well laid out. The baſhaw here reſided, or rather was ſhut up; the only remarkable room in his quarter is the hall of the divan, in which the beys aſſembled, and which has often been the

ſcene

ſcene of angry debates and bloody ſtrife in this contentious government. Joſeph's well, which is in this quarter, is cut in the rock, two hundred and ſixty-nine feet in depth: Norden has given a full deſcription of it. Joſeph's palace, which I have juſt mentioned, is certainly planned in a fine ſtyle, and I could not ſee without ſome admiration the uſe which the Arabian architects have made of the antique fragments, which they have incorporated in their own works, and the ingenuity which they have ſhewn in occaſionally mixing with them ornaments of their own invention.

At preſent, as the Turks no longer find ready to their hands the columns of ancient Egyptian architecture, and yet continue to build moſques without clearing away thoſe which fall to ruins, they commiſſion the Franks to ſend them columns by the dozen.

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Theſe purchaſe them of every ſize at Carara; and when the columns arrive at Egypt, the muſſulman architects ſurround the aſtragals with rings of iron, and employ them to ſupport the arches of the porticoes of their moſques. The pillars are in a very miſerable ſtyle of Greek architecture; and the Saracen ornaments, which begin immediately beyond the columns, contribute to form a mixture of compoſition in as bad a taſte as can be imagined. The minarets and the tombs are the only buildings which preſerve the Arabian ſtyle in any degree of purity; and if they do not preſent that appearance of full ſecurity, which is the perfection of architecture, at leaſt they gratify the eye by a richneſs of ornament, which does not degenerate into heavineſs, and a ſymmetry of parts combined with ſo much elegance, as to remove all idea of meanneſs

and

and poverty of ſtyle. The cemetery of the Mamelukes is an example of this: in quitting the rubbiſh of Cairo, the ſtranger is aſtoniſhed to ſee another town all built of white marble, where edifices raiſed on columns, and terminated by domes, or by painted, carved, and gilt palanquins, form a cheerful and inviting picture; trees alone are wanting to render this funereal retreat a delightful ſpot; ſo that it would ſeem as if the Turks, who baniſh gaiety from their houſes when alive, wiſhed to bury it with them in the tomb.

I was finiſhing my drawing of this ſanctuary of death, ſo abſurdly gay, when I heard loud cries, which I at firſt took to be ſome funeral, attended by hired female mourners, as is the cuſtom here; but on turning my eyes, I ſaw a number of women running away, and making a ſign for me to follow

them.

them. The idea of the ſcourge of the country at firſt ruſhed into my mind, but ſeeing the ground clear for a conſiderable diſtance, and no Arabs collecting, I reſumed my drawing. Directly after, however, I ſaw ſeveral men alſo flying off, and, being at a conſiderable diſtance from our own poſts, I thought it moſt prudent to return. I found ſome agitation in the ſtreets, and ſurprize in the looks of the inhabitants. When arrived at my houſe, I learnt that there had been an affray in the town, and that the governor had been aſſaſſinated. The noiſe of firing was heard, and we were alarmed for the houſe of the Inſtitute, which was ſituated in the midſt of gardens looking towards the country, and enjoyed in times of peace a delightful tranquillity, but for the ſame reaſon was the firſt quarter of the ſuburbs to be abandoned in any ſerious diſturbance, or if attacked

tacked by the Arabs: towards the town it only looked upon the part inhabited by the pooreſt claſs, and conſequently the moſt to be feared. We learned that the houſe of General Caffarelli had juſt been pillaged, and that many perſons in it belonging to the commiſſion of arts had fallen victims to the fury of the populace. We immediately made a muſter of our own party, and we found four abſent, who, as we learned an hour after from our people, had been maſſacred. We had no intelligence of Bonaparte; night was coming on, firing was heard in different places, and cries every where; in ſhort we feared a general inſurrection.

General Dumas, in returning from his purſuit of the Arabs, had made a great carnage of the rebels in entering the town, and had cut off the head of a ſeditious chief whilſt he was haranguing the people; but a

full

full half of the town, and that the moſt populous, was barricaded up; more than four thouſand inhabitants were entrenched in a moſque; two companies of grenadiers had been repulſed, and the cannon had not been able to penetrate into thoſe narrow and crooked ſtreets, whilſt the enemy, unſeen and protected in their houſes, were able to throw ſtones and lances on our party with ſafety and effect. The general had ſent for our protection a detachment, which, however, he was obliged to withdraw about midnight, and this for a time aggravated the danger to which the Inſtitute was expoſed. The night, however, paſſed quietly enough, for the Turks do not like to fight after dark, and make a point of conſcience not to kill their enemies when the ſun is gone down: and, on the other hand, I, who have always thought that in perilous ſituations, prudence,

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when it can do nothing, becomes a painful trouble, lay down to reſt, truſting to the terror of others to awake me in caſe of alarm.

Early the next morning the war re-commenced: muſkets were ſent us; all the members of the Inſtitute took up arms, and choſe them leaders; but every one had his own plan of operations, and no one would obey. Dolomieu, Cordier, Deliſle, Saint-Simon, and myſelf, lodged at a diſtance from the others; our houſe might have been pillaged by any one who would take the trouble; but as ſixty men had been ſent to the aſſiſtance of our comrades, we became eaſy on their account, and ſet about entrenching ourſelves in the beſt manner we could, ſo as to hold out at leaſt four hours, if attacked by only a moderate force, that we might have time to procure relief by the alarm of our firing.

At one time we thought we were actually invested; for we saw the peaceable inhabitants fly, and we heard the noise of arms reach up to our walls, and the bullets whistle on our terraces. We immediately pulled them to pieces, to give us materials for knocking down and crushing any enemy who might attempt to force our gates; and at an extremity we could even use as a weapon of offence the ladder which served for mounting to our chamber. In the midst of our danger, however, the heavy artillery of the castle made the diversion in our favour, which I so anxiously expected; it produced all the effect which I looked for, and consternation succeeded to rage. The artillery, however, could not reach the mosque, which was now the only rallying point of our enemies, all the rest having surrendered at discretion: but the mosque itself was soon

turned, and a battery taught the enemy that our warfare did not ſtop with the day; as a laſt effort, they now pulled down their barricades and made a ſortie, but being repulſed, they ſurrendered. The reſt of the night paſſed quietly, and the next day we were at liberty.

We had in fact now, for the firſt time, conquered Cairo, for before it had only ſurrendered to the conqueror of the Mamelukes: the timid and indolent Egyptians had ſmiled with ſatisfaction at the expulſion of their oppreſſors, who had haraſſed them with numberleſs vexations and acts of injuſtice; but when they were called on to pay their deliverers, they ſoon began to regret their former tyrants: and, on recovering from their firſt panic, they had liſtened to their mufti, who found means to animate them againſt us with a fanatic enthuſiaſm, and

they had conſpired in ſilence. For our own ſecurity we ought, perhaps, to have ſpared none who had ſeen French ſoldiers retire diſcomfited; but our clemency anticipated their repentance: and thus the deſire of revenge in our enemies was not extinguiſhed by their conſternation, which I could read the next day in the attitude and countenance of the malecontents; and I was convinced, that if, before the day of this engagement, we had been encompaſſed by a circle of Arabs, we were now confined within narrower limits, and ſhould always be obliged to march through domeſtic foes.

Some traitors were indeed arreſted and puniſhed, but the moſques which had been the aſylum of crimes were reſtored, and the pride of the offenders was heightened by the act of condeſcenſion, whilſt their fanaticiſm was not ſubdued by their terror. Whatever

repreſen-

representation could be made to Bonaparte of the danger of ſuch a line of conduct with the rebels, nothing could ſhake the ſentiments of humanity which he diſplayed in this event; he wiſhed to ſhew as much clemency as he could excite terror, and the paſt was forgotten, whilſt we had to lament many and ſerious loſſes.

General Dupuis, an excellent captain, who for two years had braved the dangers that beſet the path of glory in the brilliant campaigns of Italy, was aſſaſſinated at this time, whilſt reconnoitering, by a cowardly blow. A knife faſtened to the end of a ſtick was thrown from a window, cut the artery of his arm, and he expired in a few moments: the young and brave Sulcowſky, who was hardly recovered from the wounds he received in the romantic battle of Salager, went to reconnoitre the enemy, whom he diſcovered,

 attacked,

attacked, defeated, and purſued, in ſpite of a great diſproportion of numbers, but unfortunately falling into an ambuſcade, his horſe was pierced with a lance, fell upon him, and in this ſituation he was cruſhed by one who was haſtening to his aſſiſtance. Thus periſhed a moſt diſtinguiſhed officer in the army, an acute obſerver on the march, an intrepid warrior in the battle; his pen relieved his hand from the fatigues of the ſword; he had juſt deſcribed the march to Belbeys with as much grace and intereſt as another would have related the glorious ſhare which he had in that expedition, and the honourable wounds which he received: this much-lamented young foreigner, ambitious of glory, ſought it in our battalions; ſuppreſſing the vivacity of his character, he modelled his actions from thoſe of the leader whom he had choſen to follow: and thus jealous of diſtinguiſh-

diſtinguiſhing himſelf, he had ſet before his eyes the meaſure of his emulation. I had been entruſted with all the paſſions of his youth, I continued to admire his noble ambition, for it was by ſtudy and real merit that he wiſhed to riſe. He had juſt been intereſting me by his energy and the free confidence of friendſhip, when the news of his death came to diſtreſs and agitate my mind; he was one of the moſt amiable of the officers of the army, and his death caſt a melancholy cloud on the victory of the twenty-third of October.

Though the populace, the devotees, and ſome of the great people of Cairo, ſhewed themſelves fanatical and cruel in this revolt, the middle claſs, (which is in all countries the moſt acceſſible to reaſon and virtue) was perfectly humane and generous to us, notwithſtanding the wide differences of man-

ners, religion, and language: whilſt from the galleries of the minarets murder was devoutly preached up, whilſt the ſtreets were filled with death and carnage, all thoſe in whoſe houſes any Frenchmen were lodged, were eager to ſave them by concealment, and to ſupply and anticipate all their wants: an elderly woman in the quarter in which we lodged gave us to underſtand, that as our wall was but weak, if we were attacked, we had only to throw it down, and to ſeek for ſhelter in her harem; a neighbour, without being aſked, ſent us proviſion at the expence of his own ſtore, when no food was to be purchaſed in the town, and every thing announced approaching famine; he even removed every thing from before our houſe which could render it conſpicuous to the enemy, and went to ſmoke at our door, as if it was his own, in order to deceive any that might

might attack us: two young perſons who were purſued in the ſtreets were ſnatched up by ſome unknown people and carried into a houſe, and whilſt they were furiouſly ſtruggling for deliverance, expecting that they were deſtined for ſome horrible cruelty, the kind raviſhers, not being able otherwiſe to convince them of the hoſpitable benevolence of their intentions, delivered up to them their own children as pledges of their ſincerity. Many other ſuch anecdotes could be given of delicate ſenſibility, which recall the feelings of human nature in the times in which they ſeem to be entirely abandoned. If the grave Muſſulman repreſſes thoſe tokens of ſenſibility which other nations would take a pride in exhibiting, it is in order to preſerve the dignified auſterity of his character.

CHAPTER IX.

Mummies of the Ibis in the Vaults of Saccara, and Conjectures concerning that Bird—Curious juggling Tricks of the Psylli with Serpents—Great Utility of the Ass in Egypt—Caravan from Mount Sinai—Pyramids on the Plain of Saccarah, and near Memphis—Various Egyptian Villages and Manners of the Inhabitants—Tents of Bedouin Arabs—Superstitious Ceremonies, &c. of the Natives—March of Desaix's Army to Upper Egypt in Pursuit of Murad-Bey—Various severe Encounters with the Mameluke Army—Desperate Battle of Sedinan, and Flight of the Mamelukes.

TO return to objects of curiosity.—The vaults of Saccara had just been opened, and more than five hundred mummies of

of the ibis had been found in a ſepulchral cave. Two had been given me, and I could not reſiſt the deſire of opening one of them, ſo citizen Geoffroi and myſelf ſat down alone at a table, with all the neceſſary means of reſearch before us, and myſelf, with my pencil in my hand.

There is a conſiderable variety in the degree of care beſtowed in embalming theſe birds, ſo that in fact nothing but the earthen pot in which the whole is contained is common to all. This difference and pains beſtowed on mummies taken from the ſame cave, proves that the price of the work varied conſiderably for theſe birds as well as for men, and conſequently that it was done at the expence of individuals; and alſo it may be preſumed, that the embalmed birds had not all been fed in temples, or colleges of prieſts, in reward of ſervices rendered by the whole ſpecies.

If the ſame had been the caſe with theſe birds as with the god Apis, a ſingle individual would have ſufficed, and theſe pots would not be found by thouſands. We may then ſuppoſe that the ibis, as it deſtroys all reptiles, was in great veneration in a country in which theſe noxious animals abound at a certain time of the year; and, like the ſtork in Holland, this bird growing tame from the good reception which it met with every where, each houſe had its own winged inmates of this ſpecies, to which, after their death, the honours of ſepulture were given according to the means of the inhabitants. Herodotus relates, that he was informed that in the earlieſt times of the records of the country, the ibis abounded every where, but that in proportion as the marſhes of Upper Egypt were drained, the birds retired to the lower province in queſt of their food; which agrees well enough with the report of mo-

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dern travellers, that they are ſtill ſeen occaſionally in the lake Menzaleh. If the number had ſo much diminiſhed even in the time of Herodotus, it is not ſurprizing that its exiſtence at preſent has been conſidered as almoſt problematical.

Herodotus relates, that the prieſts of Heliopolis informed him, that on the retreat of the waters of the Nile, clouds of winged ſerpents arrived by the vallies which ſeparate Egypt from Arabia, and that the ibis went out to meet and feed on them; and he adds, that he had never ſeen theſe winged ſerpents, but that he had gone into the vallies, and had ſeen their ſkeletons in innumerable quantity. I think (with ſubmiſſion to the patriarch of hiſtory) that it was not neceſſary to create this fable of dragons from Arabia, in order to render the ibis a valuable animal to Egypt, which produces of itſelf ſo many

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noxious reptiles; but the reſpectable Herodotus was a Greek, and fond of the marvellous.

The ſerpent, though not winged, is ſtill the object of ſome ſorcery in Egypt. I was with the commander in chief one day, when the Pſylli were introduced, and we put many queſtions to them relative to the myſtery of their ſect, and the ſuppoſed command over ſerpents which they appear to poſſeſs. They anſwered our queſtions with more aſſurance than intelligence, but we put them to the proof: "Can you tell us" ſaid the general, "whether there are any ſerpents in the pa-"lace, and if there are, can you oblige them "to come forth from their retreats?" They anſwered both queſtions in the affirmative; and we put them to the proof: on which they ſearched all the rooms, and preſently after they declared that there was a ſnake

in

in the houſe; they then renewed their ſearch to diſcover where he was hid, made ſome convulſions in paſſing before a jar placed in a corner of one of the rooms, and declared that the animal was there; where indeed we actually found one. This was a true Comus's trick; we looked at each other, and acknowledged that they were very adroit.

Being always curious to obſerve the means by which men command the opinions of others, I regretted that I was not at Roſetta at the proceſſion of the feaſt of Ibrahim, in which the convulſions of the Pſylli form the moſt entertaining part, to the populace, of this religious ceremony. To make up for my loſs, I addreſſed myſelf to the chief of the ſect, who was keeper of the *okel* or tavern of the Franks; I flattered him; and he promiſed to make me a ſpectator of the exalt-

ation

ation of one of the Pſylli, as ſoon as he ſhould have *blown into his ſpirit*, as he expreſſed it. From my curioſity he thought I bid fair to be a proſelyte, and he propoſed to initiate me, which I accepted; but when I learned that in the ceremony of initiation the grand-maſter ſpits in the mouth of the neophyte, this circumſtance cooled my ardour, and I found that I could not prevail on myſelf to go through this trial; ſo I gave my money to the high-prieſt, and he promiſed to let me ſee one of the inſpired.

They had brought with them their ſerpents, which they let looſe from a large leather ſack in which they were kept, and made them erect their bodies and hiſs, by irritating them. I remarked that it was the light which principally cauſed their anger, for as ſoon as they were returned into the ſack their paſſion ceaſed, and they no longer en-

deavoured to bite. It was alſo curious to obſerve, that, when angry, the neck for ſix inches below the head was dilated to the ſize of one's hand. I ſoon ſaw that even I could manage the ſerpents perfectly well without fear of their fangs; for having well remarked that the Pſylli, while they were threatening the animal with one hand, ſeized it on the back of the head with the other: I did the ſame with one of the ſerpents with equal ſucceſs, though much to the indignation of the performers themſelves. After this, they proceeded to the grand myſtery: one of the performers took a ſnake, which he had previouſly diſabled by breaking the under jaw, and by rubbing away the gums till the whole of the palate was deſtroyed; he then graſped it with the appearance of paſſion, and approached the chief, who with great gravity gave him the *ſpirit*, that is to ſay, after uttering

tering ſome myſterious words, blew into his mouth; and, at the inſtant, the other was ſeized with a ſacred convulſion, his arms and legs diſtorted, his eyes ſeeming to ſtart from his head, and he began to tear the animal with his teeth; whilſt the two attendants, appearing to commiſerate his ſufferings, reſtrained his ſtruggles with difficulty, and ſnatched from his hand the ſerpent, which he was unwilling to let go. As ſoon as the ſnake was removed, he remained as if ſtupid; but the chief approached him, muttered ſome words to him, retook from him the ſpirit by aſpiration, and he returned to his natural ſtate. Now, however, he that had ſeized the ſnake beginning to be tormented with the ſame ardour to conſummate the myſtery, came up to the chief to demand the ſpirit; and as he was ſtronger and more active than the firſt, his cries and convul-

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ſions were ſtill more violent and ridiculous. I had now ſeen enough of the initiation, and thus ended this groſs juggling.

In theſe countries the ſect Pſylli boaſts a very high origin: it was particularly prevalent at Cyrenaica; and the god Knuphis, or the architect of the univerſe, according to Strabo and Euſebius, was adored at Elephantina under the figure of a ſerpent.

From the time of the ſerpent of Eden to that of Achmin, mentioned by Savary, this reptile has enjoyed uninterrupted celebrity: after having tempted our firſt mother, the apple was taken away from him; when making a circle with his tail in his mouth, he has become the ſymbol of eternity; when coiled round a ſtaff, he is the god of health; the Egyptians, by twining two of them round a globe, have repreſented, perhaps, the equilibrium of the ſyſtem of the world; the In-

dians put him in the hands of all their divinities; we have made him the repreſentative of juſtice and prudence; the Jews have had their brazen ſerpent; the Greeks that of Elermis and the Python; and in later times, the Muſſulmans have their harrili, the deflowerer; and yet ſo many illuſtrations have changed nothing of the nature of this wiſe animal; he continues to court obſcurity, and avoid the light, and never raiſes his head to more than half his height. Why then all this celebrity, and this religious obſervance unanimouſly beſtowed on this reptile?

The camels do all the office of carts at Cairo; they bring thither all the proviſions, and carry away the filth: the ſaddle-horſes and aſſes are chiefly devoted to tranſporting paſſengers from place to place, and they are ſeen in every ſtreet ſaddled, bridled, and always ready to ſtart. The aſs, which in Eu-

rope

rope and the northern countries is heavy and dull, appears quite in its natural climate in Egypt; and it here enjoys all its powers in full perfection; it is healthy, active, and cheerful, the mildeſt and ſafeſt animal to mount that one can poſſibly have; his natural pace is an amble or a gallop, and without fatiguing his rider, he carries him rapidly over the large plains which lie between different parts of this ſtraggling city. This mode of conveyance was ſo agreeable to me, that I ſpent almoſt the whole day on the back of aſſes; I became known to all the people who let them out for hire, and theſe were ſo uſed to my habits, as to carry for me my drawing port-folio and chair, and ſerved all the day as my valets; and by double wages I could get them to attend me mounted as I was, and thus I paſſed from place to place as rapidly as on the beſt horſes, and

could continue my employments a much longer time.

In this manner, during one of my tours, I took a drawing of the canal which brings water to the Nile during the time of the inundation. (See Plate. XI. Fig. 2.)

Being commiſſioned by the Inſtitute to give a report of the different columns in the vicinity of Cairo, I made ſeveral drawings of thoſe objects that I judged the moſt worthy of note. The following are here given.

A view of Old Cairo. (Plate XI. Fig. 1.)

A view of the port of Boulac. (Plate XII. Fig. 1.)

A view of the tombs of the caliphs at the eaſt of Cairo, without the walls. (Plate XII. Fig. 2.)*

I found myſelf very comfortable at Cairo,

* See alſo the Explanation of the Plates at the end.

but it was not to loiter here that I had quitted Paris. An Arabia caravan arrived from Mount Sinai, bringing charcoal, gum, and almonds; it confifted of five hundred men and feven hundred camels. It was certainly an expenfive way of tranfporting merchandize which would fell for fo little, but the owners were in want of articles which they could not procure elfewhere, and they had only charcoal to give in exchange. Some of their countrymen, a month before, had endeavoured to learn of the Greeks whether the French, who were now mafters of Cairo, did not devour Arabs; but as they were very well treated they now arrived in crowds. The commander in chief wifhed fome one to take advantage of their return, to gain information concerning the route of Tor, and I was tempted to take this antient journey of the Ifraelites, and offered my fervices to the

 general,

general, provided he would enſure my return. He told me he would keep the captain of the caravan as a hoſtage for me, but ſmiled at my idea, that I ſhould become acquainted in twelve days with the particulars of the wonderful part of the expedition of Moſes, from the time of his departure from Memphis to his arrival at the deſert of Pharan; and, without a reſidence of forty years, that I ſhould viſit Mount Sinai, and croſs a part of the world, the annals of which mount to the higheſt antiquity, the cradle of three religions, and the native country of three legiſlators, all deſcended from the family of Abraham, who have governed the opinions of the world.

But as ſoon as I made the propoſals to the Arab chief, he told me that for all the gold in the world he would not take the charge of me; that it would be riſking both my life,

life, that of all the monks in Mount Sinai, and of every individual of his caravan, becauſe two powerful tribes, the Ovatis and the Ayaidis, had vowed vengeance againſt the French. I was telling this to the commander in chief, juſt as he was ſending off a convoy to Deſaix; and as I was ſet upon going to the eaſt, I aſked of him a paſſport ſouthwards, and in a few hours I was actually on my journey.

The next morning at day-break we were ſtill a league ſhort of Saccarah, as we had been ſlack of wind, and had only made four leauges during the night. I took a view of the pyramids of this place, as far as I could diſtinguiſh them, which at this diſtance ſeemed to occupy a ſpace of two leagues. (See Plate XIII. Fig. 2.) Though ſo far from the river, I could diſtinguiſh that the neareſt, which is of middling ſize, is compoſed

of ſtages riſing one above the other; after this come to view other ſmall pyramids almoſt deſtroyed; half a league further is one whoſe baſe ſeems as wide as thoſe of Gizeh, but of leſs elevation, and but little decayed; half a league ſtill further is the largeſt of all thoſe of Saccarah, whoſe form is irregular, that is, the line of the terminating angle is ſloped like a buttreſs reverſed; cloſe to this is a ſmaller one; and another nearer to the Nile, which is abſolutely in ruins, and looks like a brown grey rock, owing I ſuppoſe to the materials being unburnt brick; and the ſhore of the river probably concealed others from my view.

This multitude of pyramids ſcattered over the diſtrict of Saccarah, the plain of the monks, and the caves of the ibis, all prove that this territory was the Necropolis to the ſouth of Memphis, and that the village op-

poſite

posite to this, in which the pyramids of Gizeh are situated, was another Necropolis, (or city of the dead) which formed the northern extremity of Memphis, and by these we may measure the extent of this ancient city.

In the afternoon, opposite Missenda, we saw another very large pyramid, but so shattered, that in any other country but Egypt, at the great distance at which it is seen from the river, it would be taken for a small hill. A league farther there is another still larger and more shapeless. The small islands at this part of the river we found covered with ducks, herons, and pelicans.

In the evening we saw the pyramid of Meidum between the villages of Rigga and Caffr-el-Risk. (See Plate XIII. Fig. 1.)

In the night we arrived at Saoyeh, and General Belliard obligingly offered to share

his

his dwelling with me, which indeed was ſmall enough, as our beds filled the whole room, and we were obliged to turn them out when we wanted to ſet up our table, and again to remove the table when we had occaſion for our beds. This union proved as happy as it was cloſe, for we did not quit each other's ſociety during the whole campaign; and I wiſh he may have retained as agreeable a remembrance of me, as the gentleneſs, equability, and unalterable kindneſs of his character have left in my own breaſt. The ſecond night both our kitchen and our ſtable were overthrown; but, as phlegmatic as Muſſulmans, we did not think of quitting the place; and beſides, notwithſtanding this accident, our dwelling was the beſt and the moſt reſpectable in appearance of the whole village. In this part of Egypt all the buildings are made of mud and chopped ſtraw,

dried in the ſun; the ſtairs, window openings, hearths, utenſils, and even furniture, are all of the ſame ſimple material; ſo that if it were poſſible that the invariable order of climate which nature has fixed here ſhould be for a moment changed, and that unuſual winds ſhould arreſt and diſſolve in rain ſome of thoſe groups of clouds which the north wind is perpetually driving over their heads in ſummer towards the mountains of Abyſſinia, the towns and villages would be ſoftened down and liquefied in a few hours ſo completely, that corn might be ſown on the ſpot where they ſtood; but thanks to the climate, a houſe built of this frail material will generally laſt the life of the builder, which is amply ſufficient for the man whoſe ſon muſt ranſom from the ſovereign the ground for which his father has already paid.

The

The day after my arrival, a column of three hundred men went out to raiſe the *miri* or land-tax, and a requiſition of buffaloes and horſes. In this reſpect we followed the example of the Mamelukes, each of whom, with the ſame view, uſed always, in the province allotted to him, to take the ſame military promenade, encamping before the towns and villages, and living at free quarters till the requiſition was complied with. This calls to mind what Diodorus Siculus ſays of the Egyptians, that they think themſelves dupes when they pay what they owe, before they are forced to it by blows. I may remark too, that, without ever refuſing payment, there was no ingenious device which they omitted in order to delay, at leaſt for ſome hours, the ſeizure of their money.

The progreſs of this column gave me an excellent opportunity of making diſcoveries,

and

and of obſerving the peculiarities of the interior of the country. The firſt journey brought me near the pyramid of Meidum, which I had already ſeen at a diſtance; I was now no more than half a league off it, but was ſeparated from it by the canal of Juſef, and another ſmaller one, and we were not provided with a boat. However, with the aſſiſtance of an excellent glaſs, and as clear fine weather as poſſible, I was able to make my obſervations upon it almoſt as well as if I touched it. It is built on a platform made by one of the ſecondary hills of the Lybian chain. The form of the pyramid is five large retreating ſteps or ſtages; the calcareous ſtone of which it is compoſed is more or leſs friable; the baſe and the loweſt ſtage are more worn than any of the others, and in the middle of the ſecond ſtage ſeveral courſes have undergone the ſame decay. (See again Plate

Plate XIII. Fig. 1.) In paſſing from the village of Meidum to that of Sapht, I had an opportunity of obſerving three ſides of this pyramid, and it appears that an opening has been attempted at the ſecond ſtage on the north ſide: the rubbiſh, covered with drifted ſand, riſes as high as this opening, and covers all but the angles of the firſt ſtage. The ruin begins at the third ſtage, of which about a third part remains: the entire height of all that is left of this pyramid appears to be about two hundred feet.

All the country which we paſſed was abundantly fertile, and ſown with wheat, ſainfoin, barley, beans, lentiles, and *doura* or *ſorgo*, which is a kind of millet, cultivated almoſt univerſally in Upper Egypt. Whilſt the grain of this plant is ſtill milky, the peaſants roaſt it like maize, they chew the green ſtalk like the ſugar cane; the leaves

are

are food for cattle; and the medulla or pith, when dry, ſerves for tinder; the cane ſupplies the place of wood for firing and heating the ovens; flour is made of the grain itſelf, and cakes of the flour, but none of all theſe parts are good.

Between Meidum and Sapht I found the ruins of a moſque, among which were large columns of cipoline marble: could this be remains of the antient Nicopolis? However, I found in the neighbourhood no fragments of wall which could indicate the exiſtence of any antiquity.

From Sapht we went to an adjoining hamlet, which is a kind of mud fortreſs. This feudal retreat was formed of an encloſure croſſed by ſome ſtraight ſtreets, and within was a ſmall caſtle, in which the kiachef reſided, which was embattled, and contained a covered way full of loop-holes:

the

the kiachef however had emigrated, and his ſatellites diſperſed, and the inhabitants of the adjacent villages had taken their revenge by pillaging his houſes.

Our ſecond expedition was to Meimund, a very rich village, with ten thouſand inhabitants. Like all the reſt, it is ſurrounded with dunghills and heaps of rubbiſh, which in ſuch a flat country as this form ſo many hills, that may be ſeen at a conſiderable diſtance. Every evening each of theſe eminences is ſeen covered with people, who lie down upon it, and breathe its noiſome vapours, ſmoking their pipes, and obſerving if all is quiet in the fields. Theſe heaps of dung and rubbiſh produce many inconveniences, they obſcure the houſes, infect the air, and fill the eyes of the people with an acrid duſt mixed with minute ſtraws, which is one of the numerous cauſes of the diſeaſes

of

of the eyes to which the people of Egypt are ſo much expoſed.

From Meimund we proceeded to El-Eaffer, a pretty village in an excellent country. The gum-arabic is here collected, which is procured by inciſion from a kind of mimoſa, called the nilotica, or Egyptian thorn, which bears very fragrant golden buds. We here procured fine horſes, and an excellent breakfaſt. We diſcovered from hence Abuſſir, Beniali, Dallaſte, Bacher, Tabuch, Buch, Zeitun, and Eſchmend-el-Arab. At El-Eaffer we met with a dozen Arabs, encamped without the village. I got a view of the chief's tent, compoſed of nine picquets ſupporting an indifferent woollen tent-cloth, under which were all the articles of his houſehold furniture, conſiſting of a mat, and a carpet of the ſame ſtuff as the tent, two ſacks, one of wheat for the man, and another

of barley for his mare, a hand-mill to grind corn, a chicken pen, and a jar for his hens to lay in, pots, coffee-pots, and cups. The women were hideous as well as the children.

From El-Eaffer we went to Benniali: here they brought us nothing, ſo we ſent for the ſheiks, and the next day they ſent us horſes, and the tribute in money. I quitted this ſtation without regret in order to join Deſaix, whom I knew, and loved, and reſolved not to quit, and whoſe operations therefore would determine the courſe of my future travels. We left Zaoyeh, and ſlept that night at Chendauyeh, returning again by Meimund and Benniali. The firſt of our party who got to this village found its inhabitants all under arms, which cauſed a miſunderſtanding, and a mutual diſcharge of muſkets, whereby ſeveral of the natives were killed, but at laſt an explanation and

amicable arrangement took place. A moment after we heard a loud outcry, which we thought proceeded from ſome terrible cataſtrophe, but it was only occaſioned by our ſoldiers cutting down the withered branches of a decayed tree to make a fire to boil their ſoup.

The belief in a ſupreme Being, and the principles of a reaſonable morality, are ſufficient for the wiſe man; but the paſſions of the ignorant vulgar require intermediate divinities, groſs, to ſatisfy their groſs imagination, and vicious, in conformity with their own vicious habits. The religion of Mahomet, therefore, which is a religion of precepts, does not ſatisfy the fantaſtic ignorance of the Arabs; and thus, in ſpite of their blind reſpect for the koran, and their abſolute devotedneſs to every thing which comes from their prophet, notwithſtanding the ana-

themas pronounced againſt every deviation from the law, they have not been able to withdraw themſelves from hereſy, and to reſiſt the attraction of idolatry. They have their peculiar ſaints, to whom they do not indeed aſſign a ſeparate place in their paradiſe, where every thing is in common, but to whom they raiſe tombs, and whoſe aſhes they revere; and from an unaccountable ſtupidity, theſe ſaints do not become an object of worſhip till after death, and when alive are the ſubject of mockery and deriſion. The Arabs attribute to the weak in underſtanding, when dead, certain powers and influences: one is the father of the light, and cures complaints in the eyes; another is the father of generation, and preſides over lying-in women, &c. &c. The greater number of theſe ſaints have paſſed their life in repeating conſtantly the word *allah*, crouched

beſide

beside the corner of a wall, or in receiving without thanks what has been necessary to their subsistence; others employ themselves in beating their heads with a stone; others, covered with garlands, in singing hymns; others, like the oriental faquirs, in remaining motionless, naked, without ever testifying the slightest emotion, and waiting for alms, for which they never ask, or thank the donor. Besides this kind of idolatry, there are others, which are akin to magic; for example, there are certain stones and trees which conceal a good or bad genius, and thus become sacred, and cannot be removed without profanation; and to these, domestic secrets and projects of various kinds are entrusted in confidence, whilst they are worshipped with mysterious secrecy, but revered in public.

It was the danger from the axes of our

ſoldiers, incurred by a tree of this kind, which had made the alarm at Chendauyeh: I went to ſee it, and was ſtruck with its great decay; only one of its branches bore any leaves, and all the others, which were dry and broken off, were ſcrupulouſly preſerved in the very ſpot beneath the tree whereon they had fallen. In examining this tree with attention, I found faſtened to it by nails, locks of hair, teeth, ſmall bags of leather, ſmall ſtandards, and near the tombs I found ſingle ſtones ſet up, and a ſeat in the form of a ſaddle, under which was a large lump. The hair had been depoſited there by women, in order to fix the roving affection of their huſbands; the teeth belonged to adults, who conſecrated them to implore the arrival of their ſecond ſet, and of all miracles this is one of the commoneſt, ſince the Arabs have very fine and good teeth;

the

the ſtones are votive that the perſon who is going to build a houſe with them may always inhabit it himſelf; and the ſaddle-formed chair is the place in which a perſon ſits when he makes a night vow, after having lit the lamp beneath. One of the ſantons above mentioned is repreſented at Plate XLV. Fig. 2.

At Chendauyeh we encamped for the night in a wood of palm trees, where, for the firſt time, I found green turf in Egypt. We were hardly wrapped in our cloaks, when we heard a firing, on which we ſtarted up, and paſſed the night in going the round of our poſts, but we could diſcover no enemy. The next day we arrived at Beneſuef.

Deſaix had been charged with the purſuit of Murad-Bey, and the conqueſt of Upper Egypt, to which the latter had retired after

the battle of the pyramids. On the ſame day the diviſion of Deſaix had gone to take a poſition beyond Cairo, and he had only returned thither to concert with the commander in chief. He ſet out again, Auguſt 26th, with a flotilla to convoy his march.

Deſaix, being informed that a part of the proviſions and ammunition of the Mamelukes was on board ſome boats at Rechueſch, marched in ſpite of the inundation to carry it off, and the 21ſt of light infantry, after paſſing eight canals, and the lake Bathen, with the water up to their arm-pits, had reached the convoy at Beneſch, driven off the Mamelukes who defended it, and got poſſeſſion of it. Murad had fled to Faïum; Deſaix had rejoined his diviſion at Abugirgeh, and had marched to Tarut-el-Cherif, where he took a poſition at the entrance of the

the canal Jusef to secure a communication with Cairo. When arrived at Siut, where the Mamelukes had not dared to wait for him, he endeavoured to come up with them at Beneadi, to which place they had retired with their women and their baggage. At last, having collected them all at Faïum, he left Siut to go down to Tarut-el-Cherif, and there had embarked his army, had ascended with them up the canal of Jusef, in spite of the serious obstacles presented to him by the windings of the canal, the attacks of the Mamelukes, and the opposition of the inhabitants, who were astonished to find themselves compelled to assist in operations which they had at first considered as impracticable. Desaix, however, arrived at the height of Mansura, on the frontier of the desert, where at last he came up with Murad, and not being able to make good his landing in the teeth

teeth of the enemy, he tacked about to return to Minkia. The Mamelukes, encouraged by this countermarch, threaten the barks; the companies of grenadiers repulſe and diſperſe them; the landing is effected in good order, and the troops form themſelves in ſquare battalions, and purſue their march towards the deſert, attended by the boats, till they arrive oppoſite to Manſura.

Murad-Bey was now only two leagues off us, and whilſt we were haraſſed by his rear-guard he gained the heights, where he encamped with all the oriental magnificence. With our glaſſes we could diſtinguiſh his perſon, reſplendent with gold and precious ſtones, and ſurrounded by all the beys and kiachefs under his command.

We immediately march up to him, and cannonade him with two field-pieces, the only ones which we could bring with us,

upon

upon which this brilliant cavalry, always uncertain in its operations, halts, falls back, and allows itſelf to be purſued as far as El-belamon.

In our purſuit, however, we had got at a diſtance from our fleet of boats, and as we were in want of food, we were obliged to return to procure biſcuit. The enemy thought that we fled, and returned to the attack, with cries more reſembling the howling of beaſts than the ſhouts of men; our artillery again checked the main body, but ſome of the boldeſt came with their ſabres cloſe up to our infantry, and carried off two men juſt under our bayonets. At length night relieved us from their obſtinate perſeverance.

Having regained our barks, got a ſupply of biſcuit, and taken ſome hours reſt, we reſumed our march. During this time Murad-

Murad-Bey had caufed a ftranger to come into his camp, and to fpread a report, that the Englifh had deftroyed all the French in Alexandria; that the inhabitants of Cairo had maffacred thofe who had got poffeffion of that town, and that none of their enemies remained except the handful which had fled from them the night before, and were now on the point of being exterminated. Murad then ordered a feaft, in which a mock combat between the Arabs and French was acted; and thofe who perfonated the French had orders to allow themfelves to be overcome: but the feaft terminated with real bloodfhed, as they barbaroufly maffacred the two prifoners which they had made the two preceding days.

Defaix had learned that Murad was at Sedinan, burning with impatience to give him battle. He therefore gave orders to advance

 towards

towards the Arab chief. As ſoon as we had quitted the encloſed and cultivated country, loud cries of fierce joy were heard; but the day being far advanced, the enemy deferred till the morrow the victory of which they were ſo confident. The night was paſſed in feaſting in their camp, and in the dark their patroles came to inſult our advanced poſts, imitating our language. At the firſt dawn of day we formed in a hollow ſquare battalion, with two platoons on our flanks. Soon after we ſaw Murad-Bey at the head of his formidable Mamelukes, and eight or ten thouſand Arabs advancing to us, covering a league of the plain. A valley ſeparated the two armies, which we had to croſs to reach our enemies. We were hardly got to this unfavourable poſition, when the enemy ſurround us on all ſides, and charge us with an intrepidity approaching to fury: our cloſe files

files render their numbers useless; our musketry keep up a steady fire, and repel their first attack; they halt, fall back, as if retiring from the field, and suddenly fall upon one of our platoons and overwhelm it: all who are not killed immediately throw themselves on the ground, and this movement uncovers the enemy to our grand square; then we take advantage of it, and pour in our fire, which again makes them halt and fall back. All that remain of the platoon enter the ranks, and we collect the wounded. We are again attacked in mass, not with the cries of victory, but of rage; the courage is equal on both sides, they are animated by hope, we by indignation: our musket-barrels are cut with their sabres, their horses fall against our files, which receive the shock unshaken; the horses are startled at our bayonets; and their riders turn their heads, and back them upon

us

us to open our ranks by their kicks: our people, who knew that their ſafety conſiſted in remaining united, preſs on without diſorder, and attack without breaking their ranks; carnage is on all ſides, but each party fight without mixing with the other. At laſt the fruitleſs attempts of the Mamelukes urge them to a madneſs of rage, they throw at us their arms, which otherwiſe could not reach us; and, as if this were to be their laſt battle, they ſhower upon us their guns, piſtols, hatchets, and the ground is ſtrewed with arms of all kinds. Thoſe who are diſmounted drag themſelves under our bayonets, and cut at our ſoldiers' legs with their ſabres; the dying man ſummons his laſt effort to throttle his adverſary. One of our men lying on the ground, was ſeizing an expiring Mameluke, and ſtrangling him, an officer ſaid to him, "How can you, in your condition, do ſuch

"an act?" "You speak much at your ease," the man replied, "you who are unhurt; but "I, who have not long to live, must have "some enjoyment while I may."

The enemy had now suspended their attack; they had killed many of our men; and though they retired, they had not fled; and our position was not at all amended. Directly after their retreat had left us uncovered, they opened upon us a battery of eight guns, which they had before masked, and which, at every discharge brought down six or eight of our men. We had now a moment of consternation and dismay, and the number of our wounded every instant encreased. To sound a retreat would be to revive the courage of the enemy, and to expose ourselves to every kind of calamity; to remain where we were would be to encrease our disaster fruitlessly, and to risk the lives

of

of us all; but in marching we muſt abandon our wounded, and give them up to certain deſtruction—a moſt diſtreſſing circumſtance in all wars, and eſpecially in the ſavage conteſt in which we were now engaged. What order was to be given? Deſaix, in dreadful perplexity, ſtood awhile motionleſs; but the common intereſt, and the voice of imperious neceſſity, drowned the cries of the wounded; the word was given, and we marched on. We had no choice between compleat victory, or entire deſtruction; and this extremity was ſo ſenſibly felt by all, that the whole army became, in courage and unanimity, as a ſingle individual. Our light artillery, commanded by the impetuous Tournerie, perform prodigies of celerity and addreſs; and whilſt in its haſty courſe it is diſmounting the Mameluke cannon, our grenadiers come up, the battery is abandoned; and this army

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of cavalry, ten times our number, immediately ſtand amazed, check their courſe, fall back, gallop off, and diſappear like a vapour, leaving us without an enemy.

Never was there a more terrible battle, a more ſplendid victory, and a more unexpected ſucceſs. I ſtill think of it as a frightful dream, which has only left in the mind a vague impreſſion of terror.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER X.

Desaix returns to Cairo for Reinforcements—Convents near Benesuef—Encroachment of the Sand of the Desert—Canal Jusef and other Works—Conjectures on the Lake Mœris—Fertility of the Province of Faium—Pyramid of Bilahun—Return of Desaix, and March—Arab Thief—Benesech, and other Villages—Grand Portico of Hermopolis—Vermin in Egyptian Houses—Town of Beneadi, and Character of the Inhabitants.

THE real advantage which we obtained at the battle of Sedinan, was to detach the Arabs from the Mameluke party, and we may also add, the fear with which our

mode of fighting inſpired theſe latter. Notwithſtanding the diſproportion of number, the unfavourable poſition in which we were placed, and the circumſtances in their favour, which muſt have made them reckon on our total deſtruction, the reſult of the battle put an end to their flattering illuſions. Murad-Bey now changed his plan, and giving up all hopes of breaking the ranks of our infantry, or of reſiſting its attacks in the open field, he took from us the opportunity of putting an end to the campaign by deciſive blows, and we were reduced to purſue an active and rapid enemy, who, by his anxious and reſtleſs precautions, left us neither reſt nor ſecurity. Our mode of warfare was now to reſemble that of Antony againſt the Parthians: the Roman legions, invincible in the field, overthrew their enemy's battalions, and found no other obſtacle than

the ſpace of country which their foes left behind them; but, exhauſted with daily loſſes, the victors thought themſelves fortunate to be able to quit the territory of a people who, always beaten but never ſubdued, would, even the day after a defeat, return with invincible perſeverance to haraſs thoſe whom they had juſt left maſters of an unprofitable field of battle.

The heat of the days, and the coolneſs of the nights in this ſeaſon, had afflicted the army with much inflammation of the eyes: this diſeaſe is unavoidable when long marches and fatiguing days are followed by night-watching, in which the humidity of the air repreſſes perſpiration; viciſſitudes which bring on inflammation either in the eyes or the bowels.

Deſaix, to loſe no time to levy the requiſitions, and procure horſes in the province

which he had juſt conquered, left three hundred and fifty men at Faïum, and ſet out to reduce the villages which Murad-Bey had excited to revolt. During his abſence in the province, a thouſand Mamelukes, and a number of fellahs, or peaſants, came to attack the town which contained our ſick men.

General Robin, and the chief of brigade, Exuper, who, with the troops under his command, were all ſuffering under ophthalmia, performed prodigies of valour, and drove back from ſtreet to ſtreet, a whole hoſt of enemies, after making a terrible ſlaughter among them. Deſaix rejoined theſe brave men, and the whole army marched by Beneſuef, to diſpute with Murad-Bey the reſources of this rich province.

When arrived at Beneſuef, Deſaix returned to Cairo, in order to procure the means

of

of renewing the campaign: he there collected and dispatched forwards every thing which he thought necessary to secure his marches, and to force Murad to come to action. For myself, fearing the pleasures of the capital, I remained at Benesuef, though but little inviting to the artist.

On the left bank of the Nile, opposite Benesuef, the Arabian chain of mountains lowers, retires further off, and forms the valley of Araba, or the Chariots, terminated by Mount Kolsun, rendered famous by the grottoes of two cenobite patriarchs, St. Anthony and St. Paul, the founders of the monastic order, and creators of this contemplative system, which is so useless to mankind, and has been so long respected by the credulous people. On the soil which covers the two grottos, which these two hermit saints inhabited, two monasteries still exist, from one

of which it is ſaid Mount Sinai, beyond the Red-Sea, may be diſcerned. The mouth of this valley, towards the Nile, exhibits nothing but a dreary plain, the only cultivated part of which is a narrow ſlip of land on the bank of the river: ſome veſtiges of villages overwhelmed by the ſand may be diſcovered, and they preſent the afflicting ſight of daily devaſtation, produced by the continual encroachment of the deſert on the ſoil, inundated with ſand.

Nothing is ſo melancholy to the feelings, as to march over theſe ruined villages, to tread under foot the roofs of the houſes, and the tops of minarets; and to think that theſe were once cultivated fields, flouriſhing trees, and the habitations of man—every thing living has diſappeared, ſilence is within and around every wall, and the deſerted villages are like the dead, whoſe ſkeletons ſtrike with terror.

The antient Egyptians ſpeak of this encroachment of the ſands, under the ſymbol of the myſterious entrance of Typhon into the bed of his ſiſter-in-law Iſis; an inceſt, which is to change Egypt into a deſert as frightful as thoſe by which it is encompaſſed; and this great event will happen when the Nile finds a lower level, through ſome one of the ſurrounding vallies, than the bed in which it now flows, and which is conſtantly getting higher. This idea, which at firſt appears extraordinary, will be thought probable, when we conſider the local ſituation. The elevation of the Nile, and the riſe of its banks, have made of it an artificial canal, which would by this time have put Faïum under water, if the caliph Juſef had not raiſed new dykes upon the old ones, and dug a collateral canal below Beneſuef, to reſtore to the river a part of the water which

is every year poured by the overflowing into this vaſt baſon. If it were not for the cauſeways which ſtop the inundation, the great ſwells would ſoon convert this whole province into a large lake, which actually threatened to happen twenty-five years ago by an extraordinary inundation, in which the river had riſen over the banks of Hilaon, and it was much feared either that the province would remain under water, or that the ſtream would reſume an antient channel, which it was evident it had occupied in remote ages. To remedy this inconvenience, a graduated dyke has been raiſed near Hilaon, where there is a ſluice erected, which, as ſoon as the inundation has got to the proper height to water the province without drowning it, divides the maſs of water, takes the quantity neceſſary to irrigate Faïum, and turns off the remainder by forcing it back

back into the river through other canals of a deeper cut. If a conjecture might be hazarded, we might say, that, before the most antient times of which we have any knowledge, the whole Delta was only a large gulph which received the waves of the Mediterranean; that the Nile came as far as the opening of the valley which enters the province of Faïum; that by the *dry river* it went to form the Marëotis, which was one of its estuaries to the sea, as the lac Madie was that of the Canopic branch, and as the lakes of Berelos and Menzaleh are still the estuaries of the Sebenitic, Mendeisian, Tanitic, and Pelusiac mouths; that the lake Bahr-Belame (*or without water*) is the remains of the antient course of this river, wherein are found petrefactions, (which incontestibly prove inundations) vegetations, and human labours, shewing that the soil

has

has been raiſed by the courſe of the river, and by the perpetual fluctuation of the ſands from weſt to eaſt; that the Nile having at a certain period acquired more direction to the north than to the north-weſt as before, precipitated itſelf into the gulph which we have juſt ſuppoſed, there forming marſhes, and at laſt the Delta. From this hypotheſis it would follow, that the firſt labours of the antient Egyptians, ſuch as the lake Mœris (now lake Bathen), and the firſt dykes were only made to retain part of the waters of the inundation, in order to irrigate thereby the province of Arſinoë, which threatened to become barren; and that poſteriorly, the lake Mœris, or Bathen, no longer receiving water enough, nor being able from its ſituation to water the province of Faïum, the river was obliged to be taken higher up, and the canal Juſef was dug, which doubtleſs

bears

bears the name of the caliph who ordered this noble work: but at the ſame time fearing that Faïum would remain permanently inundated, this prince raiſed, from time to time, new dykes upon the old, ſuch as we now ſee, and dug the two canals of Boueke and Zaoyeh to return the ſuperfluity of the flood back into the river.

When we enjoy quiet poſſeſſion of the country we ſhall probably make obſervations on all the different levels, and on the labours of the Egyptians at different periods; we may thus aſcertain facts, inſtead of forming conjectures, and ſhew how much the Egyptians have at all times attended to the diſtribution of the waters, and how even in times of barbariſm they have preſerved ſome of their antient ſagacity. After this, if the Nile ſhould ſtill continue to lean to the right, and to increaſe as it has already done, the

the branch of Damietta at the expence of that of Rofetta; if it at leaft fhould abandon the latter, as it has fucceffively left the channels of the *dry river* and the branch of Canopus; if it fhould leave the lake of Berelos and empty itfelf entirely into that of Menzaleh, or form new branches and new lakes at the eaftern part of Pelufium; in fine, if nature, always more powerful in the end than the refiftance of man, has condemned the Delta to become an arid foil, the inhabitants will follow the Nile in its courfe, and will always find on its banks that abundance which is produced by its beneficent waters.

Our firft employment, after the departure of Defaix, was to reconnoitre the country, and make a progrefs through it, to levy contributions: we vifited the villages which border the opening at Faïum, half a league

to the weſt of Beneſuef. We then croſſed the canal; and after a march of two hours we arrived at Davalta, a fine village, or rather a beautiful country; for in Egypt, when nature is charming, it is ſo in ſpite of all that men can add to it, or of the detractors of Savary, who have quarrelled ſo much with his luxurious deſcriptions. Nature here produces ſpontaneouſly groves of palms, under which flouriſh the orange-tree, the ſycamore, opuntia, banana, acacia, and pomegranate; and theſe trees form groups of the fineſt mixture of foliage and verdure; and, when theſe delightful thickets are ſurrounded, as far as the eye can reach, with fields covered with ripe dourra, with mature ſugar-canes, with fields of wheat, flax, and trefoil, which ſpread a downy carpet over the land, as the inundation retires; when, in the months of our European winter, we have before

before our eyes this rich profpect of fpring, which promifes the abundance of fummer, we may well fay with this traveller, that nature has organifed this country in a moft aftonifhing manner, and that there only want woody hills, with brooks flowing down their declivities, and a government which would render the people induftrious, and prevent the incurfion of the Bedouins, to render it the beft and moft beautiful country on the face of the earth.

In croffing the rich tract which I have juft defcribed, where the eye difcovers twenty villages at once, we arrived at Dindyra, where we ftopped for the night. The pyramid of Hilahun, fituated at the entrance of Faïum, feems like a fortrefs raifed to command this province. Can this be the pyramid of Mendes? May not the canal of Bathen, which paffes by it, be the lake Mœris formed by the

hand

hand of man, as Herodotus and Diodorus conjecture? For the lake Birket-el-Kerun, which is the Mœris of Strabo and Ptolemy, can never be regarded as any thing but the work of nature. Accuſtomed as we are to the gigantic labours of the Egyptians, we can never perſuade ourſelves that they can have hollowed out a lake like that of Geneva. All that antient hiſtorians and geographers tell us of the lake Mœris is doubtful and obſcure; it is evidently ſeen that their accounts were dictated by the colleges of prieſts, who were always jealous of every thing that related to their country, and could the more eaſily have thrown a veil of myſtery over this province, as it was ſituated beyond the common road of travellers. Hence we have had from them the ſtory of an artificial lake three hundred feet in depth, of a pyramid raiſed in the middle of it, of a palace of a hundred cham-

bers to feed crocodiles in, and, in ſhort, of ſtories as fabulous as any in the hiſtory of man, and the moſt incredible part of the remains of Egyptian antiquity. But to reaſon from what actually exiſts, we find that there is, in truth, a canal here, that of Bathen, which was flooded when we viſited it, as we approached it in different directions; that the pyramid of Hilahun may well be that of Mendes, which was built at the extremity of this canal, ſuppoſed to be the lake Mœris; that the lake Birket-el-Kerun, on the contrary, is a pool of water, which muſt always have exiſted, and whoſe bed muſt have been formed by the motion of the ſoil, which is carried up and renewed every year by the ſuperfluity of the inundation of Faïum, and its waters may have become brackiſh at the time when the Nile ceaſed to flow through the valley of the dry river. The

proofs

proofs of this opinion are, the forms of the different parts, the exiſtence of a bed of a river extended to the ſea, but now dry, its depoſitions and incruſtations, the depth of the lake, its extent, its bearing towards the north on a chain of hills, which run eaſt and weſt, and turn off towards the north weſt, ſloping down to follow the courſe of the valley of the dry channel; likewiſe, the natron lakes; and, more than all the other proofs, the form of the chain of mountains at the north of the pyramid which ſhuts the entrance of the valley, and appears to be cut perpendicularly, like almoſt all the mountains at the foot of which the Nile flows at the preſent day: all theſe offer to the view a channel left dry, and its ſeveral remains.

The ruins which are found near the town of Faïum are doubtleſs thoſe of Arſinöe. I have not ſeen them, nor thoſe which are at

the weſt ſide of the lake near the village of Kaſr-Kerun; but the plan of them ſhews only a few rooms, and a portico decorated with ſome hieroglyphics.

The pyramid of Hilahun, the moſt ſhattered of all the pyramids which I have ſeen, is alſo that which is built with the leaſt magnificence. It is conſtructed of maſſes of calcareous ſtones, ſerving as points of ſupport to heaps of unbaked bricks; but, periſhable as this kind of building is, and perhaps more antient than the pyramids of Memphis, it ſtill holds together; ſo favourable is the climate of Egypt to theſe monuments which endure for ages here, but would fall to pieces by the rigour of a ſingle European winter.

There are ſome unlucky moments, when every thing one does is followed by danger or accident. As I returned from this journey back to Beneſuef, the general charged

me

me with carrying an order to the head of the column; I gallop on to execute it, when a ſoldier who was marching out of his rank turning ſuddenly to the left as I was paſſing to the right, preſents his bayonet againſt me, and before I could avoid it, I was unhorſed by the blow, whilſt he at the ſame time was thrown down. "There is one ſavant leſs," ſaid he while falling, (for with them every one who was not a ſoldier was a *ſavant*); but ſome piaſtres which I had in my pocket received the point of the bayonet, and I eſcaped with only a torn coat. When arrived at the head of the column, I found the aid-du-camp Rapp; we were well mounted, and had got before the infantry; it was at the cloſe of the evening, and being near the tropic we had but little twilight, as in theſe countries darkneſs immediately follows ſunſet. The Bedouins infeſted the country, and

we ſaw ſome moving ſpots in the plain before us, which was very extenſive. Rapp ſaid to me, "We ſhould not be here, let us "either return to the column, or croſs the "country and get to Beneſuef." I knew that my companion preferred the boldeſt meaſure, ſo I choſe the latter, and we ſpurred on our horſes, braving the Bedouins, who are always abroad at this time: our ride was long, we encreaſed our ſpeed, and at laſt my horſe ran away with me, and it was quite dark when I arrived under the entrenchments of Beneſuef. I thought that I could continue on the ſame road that I had paſſed in the morning; my horſe ſtopped, I ſpurred him, and he leapt over a trench which had been made that day, and put me on the other ſide with my face againſt a paliſade, where I could neither advance nor retreat. At this time the ſentinel challenged me, I did not

not hear him, and he fired: I called out in French; he aſked what buſineſs I had there, chid me, and turned me out; and thus the aukward *ſavant* was bayonetted, fired at, chid, and ſent home like a truant ſchool-boy.

On the 10th of December General Deſaix returned from Cairo, bringing with him twelve hundred cavalry, ſix pieces of artillery, ſix armed djermis, and two or three hundred infantry; which made the ſtrength of his diviſion amount to three thouſand infantry, twelve hundred cavalry, and eight pieces of light artillery: he was thus provided with every neceſſary to purſue, attack, and overcome Murad-Bey, if he would let us come up with him; and we were all full of hope and courage. I was perhaps the only one in this army who had neither glory nor advancement to acquire; but I could

not help priding myſelf on my activity; and my ſelf-love was flattered with marching in an army brilliant with victory, with having reſumed my poſt at the advanced guard, and with having been the firſt to quit Toulon. I therefore marched cheerfully, with the pleaſing hope of arriving the firſt at Syene, and of realizing all my projects, and ſeeing the object of my journey fulfilled. In fact, the moſt intereſting part of my travels was now beginning; I was going to break up, as it were, a new country; to be the firſt to ſee, and to ſee without prejudice, to make reſearches in a part of the earth hitherto covered with the veil of myſtery, and for two thouſand years ſhut out from the curioſity of Europeans. From the time of Herodotus to the preſent, every traveller, following the ſteps of his predeceſſor, had only rapidly aſcended the Nile, not daring to loſe ſight of his

his boat, and only quitting the ſhore for a few hours to hurry a few hundred yards off, and viſit with anxiety the neareſt objects. For every thing beyond the vicinity of the river, the oriental hiſtories alone have been conſulted. Encouraged by the reception which I met with from the commander in chief, and ſeconded by all the officers, who partook of my zeal for the arts, I had no other fear than that of wanting time, paper, pencil, and ability, to take down all the objects of curioſity which I met with: I was now accuſtomed to night encampments, and could ſubſiſt very well on ammunition biſcuit; I feared nothing from Murad-Bey than to ſee him enter the deſert, and to lead us from Beneſuef to Faïum, and back from Faïum to Beneſuef.

We quitted this latter town, December 17th; the ſpectacle was very fine; and I regretted

gretted being too busy myself to be able to make a sketch of it; our column extended a league in length, and every thing breathed joy and hope, At the fall of day we were saddened by the view of an uncultivated land, and a deserted village—how many melancholy ideas are included in the silence of night, the neglect of culture, and the ruins of the habitations of man! tyranny begins this disastrous waste, despair and crime finish it. Thus it happens in Egypt: when the master of a village has exacted from it all that it can afford, and the misery of the inhabitants is further reduced to extremity by fresh demands, the villagers in despair oppose force to force; they are then treated as open rebels, and each party has recourse to arms; and if the inhabitants in defending themselves have the misfortune to kill any one of their tyrants or his satel-

lities,

lites, they have no other reſource than flight to ſave their lives, and theft to ſupport it; men, women, and children, blotted out from ſociety, and roving from place to place, become the terror of their neighbours, only appear furtively in their own native habitations, which they convert into dens of robbers, alarming thoſe who would ſucceed them in their retreats of miſery. Thus whole villages, when become the aſylum of crime, offer no other view to the paſſenger than deſerted fields, ruins, ſilence, and deſolation.

We arrived at El-Berankah an hour before night, and quitted it at day-break the next morning; we breakfaſted at Bebeh, a conſiderable village, which has nothing remarkable, except that it poſſeſſes the wriſt of St. George, a relic which ſhould recommend it to every pious ſon of chivalry. The Arabian

chain

chain of hills here approaches the river ſo cloſe as to leave only a narrow ſtrip of green land between the two.

At Miriel Guidi we were delayed by ſeveral accidents which happened to the carriages of our field-pieces in getting them over the canals: we learnt that the Mamelukes were at Fechneh. Whilſt we were waiting under the ſhade, a criminal came before General Deſaix. Thoſe that brought him ſaid, "He is a thief; he has ſtolen ſome "guns from the volunteers, and has been "taken in the act." How much we were ſurpriſed to ſee the robber a boy of twelve years old, beautiful as an angel, with a large ſabre wound in his arm, which he looked at without emotion. He preſented himſelf to the general, whom he perceived to be his judge, with an air of firmneſs and ſimplicity, and (ſo great is the charm of native grace)

not

not a perſon preſent could preſerve his anger. He was aſked who bid him ſteal theſe guns? "Nobody." What had induced him to do it? "I do not know; it was the great God." Had he parents? "Only a mother, very poor and blind." The general told him, if he confeſſed who ſent him, he ſhould be releaſed; if not, he ſhould be puniſhed as he deſerved. "I have already told you, "nobody ſent me; it was God alone that "put it into my head:" then laying his cap at the feet of the general, he ſaid, "There "is my head, you may cut it off!" Fatal religion, in which vicious principles and poſitive laws urge man to heroiſm and to wickedneſs!—"Poor little wretch," ſaid the general, "let him go." He ſaw that his ſentence was paſſed; he looked at the general, then at the ſoldier who was leading him off, and, gueſſing the meaning of what

he could not underſtand, he parted with a ſmile of confidence. Such anecdotes as theſe give a better inſight into the morals of nations, and the influence of religion and laws, than regular diſcuſſions.

A ſtrange event ſucceeded to this intereſting ſcene—it was *rain*. It gave us for a moment a ſenſation which recalled Europe to our minds, and the firſt ſoft ſhowers of ſpring in the midſt of December. Some minutes after we were told, that the Mamelukes were waiting for us about two leagues off, with an army of peaſants. Every one was immediately on the alert, expecting battle in the evening, or the next day at lateſt. On approaching Fechneh we diſcovered a detachment of Mamelukes, who let us approach within half cannon ſhot, and then diſappeared. We were told that the main body was at Safte Elſayeneh, a league

 further

further off; but our artillery was not come up, as it was conſtantly delayed by the canals, and in ſpite of the wiſh of the general to join the enemy, and attack him even before we were completely formed in order of battle, we could not get to Saſte till night; and we found that the Mamelukes had quitted it two hours before. At Saſte we learnt that they had got intelligence of our march at mid-day, at the time when the inhabitants were diſputing with them concerning the extraordinary impoſitions which they demanded; they immediately thought of nothing but loading their camels, calling us the *ſcourge of God* ſent to puniſh their faults, and in truth they might have uſed leſs pious expreſſions.

They kindled fires, which ſoon went out. We left this place the 19th of December at day-break: they had preceded us two hours, and

and were three leagues before us. They quitted the Nile in the direction of their march, paſſing between Bar-Juſef and the deſert, abandoning the richeſt country in the univerſe. In this third paſſage I did not find the ſtraight canal, as it is marked in all the charts; but it is only an actual ſurvey of the levels that can give a knowledge of the ſyſtem and regulation of the irrigations, and of the works to be reſpectively attributed to art and to nature in this intereſting part of Egypt. Towards the evening we forded the canal Juſef, which at this place appears to be only the receptacle of the flood waters, becauſe it is the loweſt part of the valley, and in no part to be the work of human induſtry. But all theſe queſtions will be determined by a grand operation to be performed in time of peace, from which the beſt way may be ſuggeſted of recovering the

advantages

advantages of this myſterious canal, now loſt or ſunk into neglect. This important work would have fallen to the lot of General Caffarelli, who was always ſo ardent to contribute to the public welfare, if death had not deprived the commander in chief of his ſervices as a friend, and all Egypt of a benefactor.

From a ſimple inſpection of theſe different levels I ſhould be diſpoſed to believe, that this part of Egypt has become lower than the elevated banks of the Nile, and that after the general inundation, the drainings of the water all collect in this ſpot. I have ſince ſeen in Upper Egypt the effect of the filtration which here occurs; the waters having in this country neither canals nor valleys through which they can be carried off after the inundation, the entire maſs penetrates the whole depth of the vegetable

 ſoil,

ſoil, at the bottom of which it meets with a bed of clay, which it cannot paſs, and it returns to the river by ſmall ſtreamlets, when the fall of the flood has ſunk it below the ſurface of this bed of clay. May not the *oaſis* be aſcribed to a ſimilar operation of nature?

We here ſaw ſome buſtards; they were ſmaller than thoſe of Europe, as is the caſe with every animal common to the two continents. We were now approaching the deſert, which was alſo advancing to us, for, as the ancient Egyptians expreſſed it, the deſert is the tyrant Typhon, who is conſtantly invading Egypt. The mountains were ſtill two leagues off us, and we were at the edge of the plain which forms a border between the deſerts and the cultivated country. Whilſt we were halting, we received intelligence that the Mamelukes were engaged

with

with our advanced guard; but news is fabricated by the advanced guard of an army for the main body, as well as by one quarter of Paris for the other; however, as even reports of this kind are not to be neglected, we hastened up, but found no enemy, and we halted for the night near the village of Benachie, in a fine wood of palm-trees.

On the 20th at day-break, we continued our route, in the constant hope of reaching the enemy: we learnt that he had marched all night: the artillery delayed our progress, and constantly required some little stop; whilst the Mamelukes, unincumbered by heavy guns, had the desert before them, in the midst of which they could defy our eagerness. We attempted, however, to enter it, and presently our draught horses were knocked up: however, we arrived by this route at Benesech, where, fortunately for me, the army halted.

Benefech was built on the ruins of the ancient Oxyrinchus, the capital of the thirty-third *nome*, or province of Egypt. Nothing, however, remains of this city but fome fragments of ftone pillars, marble columns in the mofques, and a fingle column left ftanding, along with its capital, and part of the entablature, which fhew that it is the fragment of a portico of the compofite order. It was not without fome danger that I arrived here alone, half an hour before the divifion; but it would have been attended with ftill greater rifk to have remained behind; I therefore had only time to take a general view on horfeback of this defolate country, and to fketch the fingle ftanding column, the only remains of its former magnificence. This folitary monument brings a melancholy fenfation to the mind; Oxyrinchus, once a metropolis furrounded by a fer-

 tile

tile plain, two leagues off the Lybian range of hills, has disappeared beneath the sand; and the new town has been obliged to retreat from this desolating invasion, leaving to its ravages house after house, and the inhabitants must at last be driven beyond the canal Jusef, on the border of which they will still be menaced. This fine canal seemed to offer to our sight its verdant banks, in order to console us for the prospect of the desert which lay before our eyes, a desert which presents such a gloomy idea to all who have once beheld it—a boundless horizon of barrenness, which oppresses the mind by immensity of distance, and whose appearance, where level, is only a dreary waste; and where broken by hills, only shews another feature of decay and decrepitude, whilst the silence of inanimate nature reigns throughout undisturbed.

Tired with drawing, I remained abſorbed in the melancholy inſpired by the ſcene before my eye, when I ſaw Deſaix in the ſame attitude with myſelf, penetrated with the ſame ſenſations. “My friend,” ſaid he, “is not this an error of nature? Nothing “here receives life; every thing appears to “be placed here to inſpire with melancholy “or dread; it would ſeem as if Providence, “after having provided abundantly for the “neceſſities of the three other parts of the “world, ſuddenly ſtopped here for want of “materials, and abandoned it to its original “barrenneſs.” “Is it not rather,” I replied, “the decrepitude of the moſt anciently in-“habited part of the globe? Has not the “abuſe which men have made of the gifts “of nature reduced it to this ſtate?” In this deſert there are vallies, and petrified wood; there have therefore been rivers and foreſts;

forests; these last have been destroyed, and after this have disappeared the dew, the mist, the rain, the rivers, and with them all the animated beings.

We found in the mosques of Benesech, a number of columns of different marbles, which are doubtless the spoils of the ancient Oxyrinchus, but which were not of the style of ancient Egypt.

We returned, following the course of the canal, which in this part resembles our river La Marne. Some time after we saw a considerable explosion, but heard no noise following it; we thought it was a signal; but the day but one after, we learnt that a part of the powder of the Mamelukes had taken fire. We also seized a convoy of eight hundred sheep, which, I believe, without much difficulty, we persuaded ourselves belonged to the enemy, and in the evening it consoled

our troops for the fatigues of the day. We arrived at Elſack too late to ſave this village from being pillaged; in a quarter of an hour there remained nothing at all in the houſes, literally nothing; the Arab inhabitants had fled into the fields; we invited them back, they anſwered coldly: "Why ſhould we "return to our houſes, are not the deſerts "now as good as our own homes?" We had nothing to reply to this laconic anſwer.

Nothing intereſting happened on the next day. We found the lake Bathen as ſerpentine as the lake Jüſef; but we muſt wait for an actual ſurvey of theſe canals, to be able to form any rational conjecture on the ancient ſyſtem of irrigation, till which time all our reaſonings would be precipitate, and our aſſertions illuſory. We ſlept at Tata, a large village inhabited by Copts; and an Arab chief, who had joined Murad-Bey, had

left

left at our diſpoſal a large houſe and mattreſſes, on which we paſſed a delicious night, for we could very rarely be lodged ſo commodiouſly.

The next day, December 22d, we croſſed fields of peas and beans already in pod, and barley in flower. At noon we arrived at Mynyeh, a large and handſome town, in which there had formerly been a temple of Anubis. I found no ruins, but fine columns of granite in the large moſque, which were well cut, and had a very fine aſtragal: I know not whether they were part of the temple of Anubis, but they were certainly of a date poſterior to that of the temples of high antiquity in Egypt, which I afterwards ſaw in my travels.

The Mamelukes had quitted the town of Mynyeh, and had nearly been ſurprized by our cavalry, who entered it ſome hours after.

They

They had been obliged to abandon five veſſels armed with ten pieces of cannon, and a mortar; they had beſides buried two others, which were ſhewn us by ſeveral Greek deſerters who came to join us.

Mynyeh was the handſomeſt town we had yet ſeen; it had good ſtreets, ſubſtantial houſes very well ſituated, and the Nile flowing through a large and cheerful channel.

From Mynyeh to Come-el-Caſar, where we ſlept, the country is more rich and abundant than any that we had hitherto travelled over, and the villages ſo numerous and contiguous to each other, that from the middle of the plain I reckoned twenty-four around me: they were not rendered gloomy by heaps of ruins, but planted with trees ſo thickly interwoven, that it put me in mind of the deſcriptions which travellers have given us of the iſlands in the Pacific Ocean.

The next morning, at eleven, we were between Antinöe and Hermopolis. I had not much curiofity to vifit the former of thefe places; as I had already feen the monuments of the age of Adrian, and the buildings of this emperor in Egypt could not prefent to me any thing very new and ftriking; but I was eager to go to Hermopolis, where I knew there was a celebrated portico; it was therefore with great fatisfaction that I heard Defaix inform me, that he fhould take three hundred cavalry, and make an excurfion to Achnufuin, whilft the infantry were marching to Melaiei.

In approaching the eminence on which is built the portico of Hermopolis, I faw its outline in the horizon, and its gigantic features. We croffed the canal of Abu-Affi, and foon after, paffing acrofs mountains and

ruins,

ruins, we reached this beautiful monument, a relic of the higheſt antiquity.

I was enchanted with delight at thus ſeeing the firſt fruit of my labours; for, excepting the pyramids, this was the firſt monument which gave me an idea of the ancient Egyptian architecture; the firſt ſtones that I had ſeen which had preſerved their original deſtination, without being altered or deformed by the works of modern times, and had remained untouched for four thouſand years, to give me an idea of the immenſe range and high perfection to which the arts had arrived in this country. A peaſant who ſhould be drawn out from his cottage, and placed before ſuch a building as this, would believe that there muſt exiſt a wide difference between himſelf and the beings who were able to conſtruct it; and without having

ing any idea of architecture, he would ſay, this is the work of a god, a man could not dare to inhabit it. Is it the Egyptians who have invented and brought to perfection ſuch a beautiful art? This is a queſtion which I am unable to anſwer; but even on a firſt glimpſe of this edifice we may pronounce, that the Greeks have never deviſed nor executed any thing in a grander ſtyle. The only idea which diſturbed my enjoyment here was, that I muſt ſo ſoon quit this magnificent object, and that it required the hand of a maſter, and ample leiſure, to do it juſtice with the pencil; whereas, my powers were humble, and my time meaſured out. But I could not quit it without attempting the ſketch which I have given to my readers, which can but faintly expreſs the ſenſations which this noble fabric conveys, and which I ſincerely hope ſome future artiſt

will

will be enabled to finiſh under more fortunate circumſtances. (See Plate XIV.)

If a drawing can ſometimes give an air of greatneſs to little things, it always diminiſhes the effect of great objects: ſo in this inſtance, the capitals, which appear too heavy in proportion to the baſes, have, in reality, ſomething in their maſſiveneſs which ſtrikes with wonder, and diſarms criticiſm: here one cannot venture either to admit or reject any rules of criticiſm: but what is truly admirable, is, the beauty of the principal outlines, the perfection in the general conſtruction, and in the uſe of ornaments, which are ſufficient to give a rich effect without injuring the noble ſimplicity of the whole. The immenſe number of hieroglyphics which cover every part of this edifice, not only have no relief, but entrench upon no part of the outline, ſo that they diſappear at twenty paces

paces diſtance, and leave the building all its uniformity. But the drawing will give a better idea of the general effect than any deſcription.

Among the hillocks, within three or four hundred yards of the portico, enormous blocks of ſtone may be ſeen half buried in ſand, and regular architecture beneath them, which appear to form an edifice containing columns of granite, juſt riſing above the preſent level of the ſoil. Further on, but ſtill connected with the ſcattered fragments of the great temple of Hermopolis, which I have juſt deſcribed, is built a moſque, in which are a number of columns of cipoline marble of middling ſize, and retouched by the Arabs; then comes the large village of Achmunin, peopled by about five thouſand inhabitants, to whom we were as great an object of curioſity as their temple had been to us.

We

We ſlept at Melaui, half a league from the road from Achmunin. But here I think I hear the reader ſay to me, "What! do you "quit Hermopolis already, after having fa-"tigued me with long deſcriptions of mo-"numents of little note; and now you paſs "rapidly over what might intereſt me? "Where is the hurry? are you not with a "well-informed general, who loves the arts, "and have you not three hundred men with "you?" All this is very true, but ſuch are the neceſſary events of this journey, and ſuch the lot of the traveller: the general, whoſe intentions are very good, but whoſe curioſity is ſoon ſatisfied, ſays to the artiſt, "I have "three hundred men here who have been "ten hours on horſeback; they muſt find "ſhelter for the night, and make their ſoup "before they go to reſt." The artiſt feels the force of this, as he is himſelf perhaps very weary and hungry, and muſt ſhare with the

reſt

reſt in the fatigues of night encampments, and eſpecially as he is every day twelve or ſixteen hours on horſeback, as the deſert has tired his eyelids, and his eyes, burning and ſmarting, only ſee dimly through a veil of blood.

Melaui is larger and ſtill more beautiful than Mynyeh; its ſtreets are ſtraight, and its bazar very well built; there is here a very large houſe belonging to the Mamelukes, which it would be eaſy to fortify.

We entered it late, I had loſt time in going up and down the town, and ſeeking out for quarters: I was lodged without the walls, and before a handſome houſe which appeared very commodious; the owner was ſitting at his eaſe before his door, and ſeeing one lying down on the outſide, he beckoned me into a chamber, where I found General

 Beliard,

Beliard, who had already taken advantage of his hoſpitality. I was hardly aſleep when I was awakened by an intolerable reſtleſſneſs, which I took to be the beginning of an inflammatory fever; but after remaining a long time in this ſtate of agitation, I found my companion as ill off as myſelf, and we both ſtarted up and left the room, and looking at each other by moonlight, our whole ſkin was red, inflamed, and our features hardly diſtinguiſhable; and on further examination, we found ourſelves covered with vermin of every kind.

Theſe manſions in Upper Egypt are nothing but vaſt pigeon-houſes, in which the owner reſerves to himſelf only a room or two for his own uſe, and there he lodges along with poultry of all kinds, and all the vermin that they engender between them, which it

is

is a part of his daily employment to hunt for, but at night the toughneſs of his ſkin defies their bites; and thus our hoſt, who intended to do us a civility, could not conceive the reaſon of our quitting him ſo abruptly. We got rid as well as we could of the moſt troubleſome of theſe intruders, vowing faithfully never again to accept of ſuch hoſpitality.

On the next day, December 24th, we continued our purſuit of the Mamelukes: they always kept about four leagues off us, and we could never gain ground upon them. In their march they ravaged as much as they could the country which they kept between us. Towards the evening we ſaw a deputation with a flag of alliance coming up to our camp. It was a party of Chriſtians, from whom the Mamelukes had demanded a re-

 quiſition

quiſition of a hundred camels, and theſe poor wretches not having it in their power to comply with the demand, the enemy had barbarouſly killed ſixty of their people. They in return, highly exaſperated, had ſlain eight of the Mamelukes, whoſe heads they offered to bring us. They all ſpoke at once, repeating perpetually the ſame expreſſions; but fortunately for our ears, the audience was given in a field of lucerne, which offered a ſeaſonable refreſhment to the deputation, who began to devour the crop greedily, as if it were a dainty which they were afraid of loſing. Whilſt ſitting on horſeback, I ſketched the figure of one of the deputies juſt as he had finiſhed his harangue. (See Plate XLIX. Fig. 6.)

We ſlept at Elganſanier, where we were very well lodged in a ſanton's tomb.

The

The next day, December 25th, we were marching over Mount Falut, when we learned that the Mamelukes were at Beneadi, to which place we immediately directed our courſe, in hopes of coming up with them. Partaking of the eagerneſs of all around me, I was full of joy when we received any tidings of the Mamelukes, without reflecting that I had no reaſon for animoſity or revenge againſt them, and that as they had not injured the remains of antiquity, which was my harveſt, I had no cauſe of complaint againſt them. If they had acquired unfairly the ſoil which we were treading, at leaſt it was not for us to make any objections; their rights were at leaſt ſanctioned by ſeveral centuries of poſſeſſion; but the preparations for a battle preſent ſo much buſtle and activity, and altogether form ſuch a ſtriking ſcene, and

and the event is of ſo much importance to all who are concerned in it, that the mind has but little room left for moral reflexions; ſucceſs is then the only object, for the game has ſo high a ſtake that one does not chooſe to loſe it.

But when arrived at Beneadi our hope was once more deceived; we only found ſome Arabs, whom our cavalry chaſed into the deſert. Beneadi is a rich village, about half a league in length, advantageouſly ſituated for the trade of Darfur, which is carried on by caravans, poſſeſſing an abundant territory, and a population numerous enough to compel the Mamelukes to enter into ſome compoſition for their levies, and not to allow them to take it as plunder. We alſo found it prudent to temporize with them for the preſent, eſpecially as the amicable advances

which they made were offered to us somewhat in the manner of conditions; the insolence of which we thought it proper to pass over by the appearance of cordiality. Surrounded by Arabs whom they do not in the least fear, as they supply these freebooters with their articles of the first necessity, and consequently can dispose of their services, the inhabitants of Beneadi enjoy an influence in the province which would render them an object of embarrassment to any government whatever: they came out to meet us, and they reconducted us out of their territory, without either party being at all tempted to pass the night in the same place. We slept at Benisanet.

On the 26th, just before getting to Siut, we found a large bridge, a lock, and floodgates in order to retain the waters of the Nile

Nile after the inundation; theſe Arabian works, made doubtleſs from antient models, are as uſeful as well contrived; and, in general, it appeared to me, that the diſtribution of the waters in Upper Egypt for irrigation, was ordered with more intelligence, and effected with ſimpler means, than in the lower provinces.

END OF VOL. I.

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